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Whirlpool calls for 2-week furloughs

Salaried employees affected as COVID-19 slams company bottom line

By TONY WITTKOWSKI
HP Staff Writer

BENTON HARBOR — Whirlpool Corp. is asking salaried employees to take two weeks of unpaid leave as a proactive measure against the coronavirus pandemic.

The Benton Harbor appliance maker made the announcement Friday. Employees are to schedule a two-week furlough between April 13 and the end of May.

"With ongoing developments related to COVID-19, Whirlpool Corp. is focused on protecting the health and safety of all employees while continuing to serve the consumers who are depending on our products during this challenging time," the company stated in a news release. "We continue to take proactive measures to mitigate the economic impact of this global pandemic."

Whirlpool stated it will continue the full automatic contribution and the employer match for 401(k) plans. However, the company match will be made with Whirlpool common stock instead of cash.

The decision affects Whirlpool's U.S.-based salaried employees.

"We believe these short-term actions will further enable our company, and our employees, to weather this storm and continue to serve our consumers as we have been doing for 108 years," the company said in the release.

The decision comes after Whirlpool closed Iowa and Ohio manufacturing plants.

Whirlpool initially closed its Amana, Iowa facility on March 24 after an employee there tested positive for the coronavirus.

The company also closed a Findlay, Ohio plant on March 26 after it was believed at least one employee had tested positive for coronavirus. Both locations underwent a deep cleaning.

With 77,000 employees around the world – about 4,000 of which are based in Southwest Michigan – Whirlpool has added more workplace policies as the coronavirus continues to spread across the U.S.

Starting in January, the company initiated travel bans, remote work policies, line distancing and enhanced cleaning of its facilities.

See **WHIRLPOOL**, page A6

Don Campbell / HP staff

An empty parking lot at Whirlpool's Global Headquarters is pictured as almost all employees are now working from home due to COVID-19. The appliance maker is now asking salaried employees to take a two-week furlough, starting April 13 through the end of May.

PLAYING PROHIBITED

Don Campbell / HP staff

Though kids aren't in school, they are limited where they can play. The playground equipment at Silver Beach in St. Joseph remains closed to the public by order of the governor due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as health officials stress social distance in order to stem the spread of the virus.

To our readers

As our community continues to confront the enormous challenges created by the coronavirus pandemic, The Herald-Palladium pledges to continue providing important timely, information to Southwest Michigan through our various platforms – print edition, website, social media and newsletters.

Like you, we have had to make adjustments to address the economic effects this crisis has had on our business. Beginning next week, we will temporarily suspend publication of the Monday print edition. We will continue to have fresh content online, including any important news that breaks over the weekend, at TheHP.com. We will also post new obituaries on our website on Monday mornings, and print them in the Tuesday editions. The Monday comics and puzzles pages will be printed in Tuesday editions.

We thank you for your support of the important work we are doing. Together, we know our community will endure the hardships and grief caused by this terrible pandemic. We will do our best to chronicle those struggles, to spotlight the good news happening despite the challenges, and to keep readers informed about crucial developments to help them make wise decisions.

Berrien County extends local state of emergency

COVID-19 cases rise to 52

By ALEXANDRA NEWMAN
HP Staff Writer

The positive of cases of COVID-19 in Berrien County rose to 52 Friday, up from 40 cases reported Thursday.

The Berrien County Health Department reports that 19 of those 52 have fully recovered. The county still has one death.

Van Buren County has 12 positive cases with one death, the same number reported Thursday. Cass County's numbers remained unchanged as well Friday, with six cases and one death.

In addition Friday, the chairman of the Berrien County Board of Commissioners, Mac Elliot, extended the local state of emergency in Berrien County through April 30.

The declaration, originally signed March 26, was extended to provide the funding and resources at the county level needed to coordinate response to the pandemic, according to a joint news release from the county, Berrien County Health Department and Spectrum Health Lakeland.

"The action allows the Berrien County Emergency Operation Center to continue to operate and support the efforts of the Berrien County Health Department and Spectrum Health Lakeland and to continue to provide vital resources already in place to deal with this pandemic," Elliott said in the news release.

The state and county health departments update the number of positive COVID-19 cases at 3 p.m. each day. For state numbers, visit www.michigan.gov/coronavirus.

Local numbers and information, can be found at www.bchdmi.org and www.vbcassdhd.org/covid-19.

Contact: anewman@TheHP.com, 932-0357, Twitter: @HPANewman

What is essential?

The answer is not easy

By ADRIENNE ROBERTS
Detroit Free Press

DETROIT — Michigan residents itching to get out of the house during the coronavirus pandemic can't visit a mall or go get a haircut, but some are buying plants for the garden and getting supplies for home renovation projects at stores that remain open for the purpose of providing critical supplies.

A Sterling Heights official wants it stopped, or at least modified.

"They can't be mixing paint and have people shopping for garden furniture," Sterling Heights Fire Marshal Shawn Allen said Wednesday. "People are bored and they're shopping."

Big-box home improvement stores such as Lowe's and Home Depot remain open under Gov. Whitmer's "Stay home, stay safe" order that went into effect March 24 because they sell life-sustaining necessities. Stores like these sell products such as cleaning supplies, toilet paper and items needed for essential repairs, but they also sell paint, patio furniture and grills, among other items that aren't crucial to everyday life.

A recent death of a Lowe's employee who had the coronavirus, though, shows why the rules are in place: employee and shopper safety.

A death in Harper Woods

In the wake of the death of a Lowe's Harper Woods employee, the retailer closed the store's doors except for curbside pickup and online orders. Employees who worked closely with this person were put on paid leave and the store has been cleaned, a Lowe's spokesperson said.

See **ESSENTIAL**, page A6

SJ police officer tests positive for COVID-19

No other officers in county known to have it

By LOUISE WREGE
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — A St. Joseph police officer has tested positive for COVID-19, Public Safety Director Steve Neubecker confirmed on Friday.

He said the officer was being quarantined for a possible exposure, which turned out to be negative, when he was then exposed to the virus by a family member. A second test came back positive.

Neubecker said the officer was cleared Thursday by the Berrien County Health Department to return to work, but he's having the officer stay home for another week

See **OFFICER**, page A6

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Sunday Weather
High 46
Low 39

6 50645 49086 7

Michigan sees largest spike with 1,953 new confirmed coronavirus cases

By JUSTIN P. HICKS
mlive.com

Health officials in Michigan announced 1,953 new cases of coronavirus COVID-19 on Friday afternoon, which brought the state's total confirmed cases to 12,744.

With 62 new deaths reported, Michigan's death toll from the virus is up to 479.

Friday marked the largest daily increase of confirmed cases, and the fourth consecutive day with more than 1,000 new cases. Confirmed cases have increased significantly over time since the state began reporting numbers in early March, due in part to an increase in testing.

One week ago today, the state had 3,657 confirmed cases and 92 deaths.

Seventy of Michigan's 83 counties are home to at least one confirmed case of coronavirus. Luce and Presque Isle counties announced their first confirmed cases Friday.

Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties remain the three hardest-hit areas in Michigan with 80 percent of the total confirmed cases and almost 89 percent of the state's deaths from the virus. The trio of Southeast Michigan counties are home to 39 percent of the state's residents.

In Detroit alone, there are 3,550 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 117 deaths.

The disproportionate number of cases in the metro Detroit area is a result of multiple factors, including the large population, more aggressive testing in those counties and community spread of coronavirus, according to experts.

Counties that announced their first COVID-19 death Friday include Calhoun and Dickinson.

As of Friday, Wayne County leads the state with 6,096 confirmed cases, including 3,550 in Detroit alone. Oakland County has 2,540 confirmed cases, followed by Macomb with 1,560, Washtenaw with 477 and Genesee with 422.

Wayne County has reported 223 deaths from the virus, while Oakland County has reported 136 and Macomb County has had 65.

Health officials expected the number of confirmed cases to increase dramatically as more testing has become available.

Of the 37,992 total specimens tests in Michigan as of Friday, April 3, 9,779 tests were positive (25.7 percent) and 28,099 tests were negative for COVID-19.

Counts of specimens tested positive will not equal the number of people with COVID-19, state health officials said, because people may have more than one test or may have had their test from an out-of-state lab. The total number of samples tested also include those that were inconclusive.

LOTTERIES

Friday drawings

Michigan
Poker Lotto
QH-8C-9D-3H-2S
Midday Daily 3
4-2-1
Midday Daily 4
2-1-5-1
Daily 3
1-8-2
Daily 4
7-2-4-9
Fantasy 5
09-19-26-31-39
Keno
01-02-08-09-10-15-19-21-24-25-27-28-36-37-45-49-59-66-67-69-72-79
Mega Millions jackpot
$121 million
Powerball jackpot
$180 million

Thursday drawings

Indiana
Cash 5
16-20-28-34-40
Estimated jackpot
$115,000
Cash4Life
10-17-22-24-44, Cash Ball: 1
Quick Draw Midday
05-18-19-22-25-39-41-43-52-53-54-55-56-59-67-68-71-73-77-80, BE: 54
Daily Three-Midday
2-8-7, SB: 8
Daily Three-Evening
4-9-0, SB: 5
Daily Four-Midday
5-8-1-6, SB: 8
Daily Four-Evening
5-9-1-8, SB: 5
Quick Draw Evening
08-15-16-19-32-34-35-36-38-46-49-50-58-61-62-64-66-67-70-80, BE: 36

Illinois
Lotto
03-07-16-24-34-42, Extra Shot: 8
Estimated jackpot
$7.25 million
LuckyDay Lotto Midday
07-15-16-35-41
Pick Three-Midday
5-0-2, Fireball: 0
Pick Three-Evening
4-2-1, Fireball: 3
Pick Four-Midday
5-4-2-5, Fireball: 5
Pick Four-Evening
3-0-8-2, Fireball: 0
Lucky Day Lotto
04-13-21-39-41

– The Associated Press

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'He died alone – he suffered alone'

Grand Haven woman recounts father's coronavirus death

By MATT DEYOUNG
Grand Haven Tribune

GRAND HAVEN — Megan Sheehan and her siblings say they did their best to talk their father out of boarding a cruise ship in Florida earlier this month.

But Tom Sheehan – described as "stubborn as a goat" by his son, Kevin – wouldn't listen.

Tom and his wife, Jill, boarded the Costa Lumiosa in Fort Lauderdale with another couple on March 5, joining about 1,400 others on board. Little did they know that at least one passenger on the ship was infected with COVID-19, and over the course of the next few weeks, many others aboard would also become sick.

For Tom, the decision to board the cruise ultimately cost him his life.

Courtesy photo

Tom Sheehan, seen here with his grandson, Evan, died March 29 from COVID-19.

An ill-fated journey

Megan Sheehan lives in Grand Haven, nearly 1,300 miles from her father, who was living in Bradenton Beach, Florida. Megan's pleadings with her father to skip the cruise – with planned stops in Italy, Antigua, Puerto Rico, Spain, the Canary Islands and France – were shrugged off.

"Me and my brothers begged him not to go," she said. "I'm not sure why he decided to go. That was his take – it's still over there and I'm going to be fine. Plus, the cruise line had taken Italy off its list of stops, so he figured they're not going anywhere that it's bad."

To Tom's defense, this was prior to the coronavirus putting the United States on lockdown. Major outbreaks were limited to China and Italy, with a few cases starting to pop up in the U.S.

The next day, March 6, Vice President Mike Pence announced that 21 people aboard the Grand Princess cruise ship, which was being held off the coast of California, had tested positive for the virus.

By that time, it was too late for Tom and Jill. They were already aboard their cruise, which made its first stop two days later in Puerto Rico. An Italian woman was removed from the ship during the stop after exhibiting symptoms of the virus, according to a New York Times article. Tom said he wouldn't have reboarded the ship had he known.

"They were never able to get off the boat after that first stop," Megan said. "They gave everyone the full roam of the boat, but they couldn't get off. When they got to Spain, they unloaded a sick passenger, but they wouldn't let anybody off the boat."

Living a nightmare

What was supposed to be a 10-day cruise turned into an 14-day nightmare for those onboard. Passengers were quarantined to their rooms for the final five days. They took to social media to share their stories with loved ones.

"My dad was begging and pleading for help," Megan said. "They had put posts on Facebook for help – 'Help us get off this ship.' He was sending messages to me and my brothers asking for help."

Other passengers created a Facebook page, "Costa Luminosa Update for Passengers," which has hundreds of posts from those aboard the ship, and their family members. The page continues to have active conversations today as some of the passengers still haven't found their way home.

According to reports, the ship was eventually allowed to dock in Marseille, France, and passengers were allowed off the ship on March 19. Once they left the ship, the American passengers were packed into buses and spent much of the day confined to them before being driven to the airport and boarding a red-eye flight to Atlanta, Georgia, where they arrived the next morning.

There's no place like home

Sheehan said the passengers, many of whom were tested before leaving France but not given results, were not quarantined once they reached Atlanta.

"We were thinking, as soon as he got in, the CDC's gonna quarantine them because so many people are sick, but that didn't happen," Kevin Sheehan said in an interview with the Tallahassee Democrat. "My wife and I were shocked."

A day later, Tom – who suffered from asthma, COPD and diabetes – was stricken with the virus.

"On Saturday, my dad was rushed to the hospital because he could not breathe," Meghan said.

He wasn't alone. Nearly 80 of the 300 passengers who returned to the United States have tested positive for COVID-19, according to statistics Megan provided. Four of them, including Tom, have died.

Megan, fighting back tears, recounted the final days of her dad's life.

"He never left the hospital," she said. "They tried to get him stable, and on Sunday, March 22, they told us they had his COVID stable. Mind you, nobody can visit. The nurses have to completely suit up to go into the rooms, so their contact with the patients is limited, too.

"We got updates twice a day," she continued. "My dad's phone died that Sunday, and before we could have someone bring him up a charger, on Sunday, he went into a coma. He never recovered. ... The nurses, bless their souls, at Sarasota Memorial Hospital, brought in an iPad so that me, my brothers and my cousins could say goodbye this past Friday."

Megan said her father loved life, loved his family and had a strong Irish pride. He was 68 when he died March 29.

"He died alone, 100 percent alone. He suffered alone," Megan said. "It's a very lonely virus. My stepmom sat at home, quarantined, very sick (she also contracted the virus), and had to make the call to take him off the ventilator."

Sharing the story is heartbreaking for Megan, but she wants to make sure everyone realizes just how real the current situation is.

"Stay home," she said. "This is so fast-acting and lonely. … I'm a single mom. My biggest fear is if I were to get it, who would take care of my boys? Maybe I'm overthinking it, but I just had the unthinkable happen to me."

Her final message is a chilling one.

"Thank God, the best part of my dad being in a coma is that he doesn't know he died alone," she said.

CDC recommends wearing face masks during the coronavirus pandemic

By LUKE MONEY, KAILYN BROWN and DEBORAH NETBURN
Los Angeles Times (TNS)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued new guidelines Friday recommending that the public voluntarily wear a non-medical basic cloth or fabric mask that can be either purchased online or simply made at home.

"The transmission from individuals without symptoms is playing a more significant role in the spread of the virus than previously understood," President Donald Trump said when announcing the guidelines at a White House briefing. "So you don't seem to have symptoms and it still gets transferred."

He emphasized that the announcement did not replace rules on social distancing, and he said the government was not recommending medical grade masks, which should be reserved for healthcare workers. He also described the guidelines as voluntary. "I don't think I'm going to be doing it."

The move comes as a growing number of local and state agencies are offering similar guidance.

California officials said on Wednesday that covering your face could prevent you from becoming infected with the new coronavirus or from spreading it to others, but they stressed that it should not be seen as a substitute for social distancing, hand washing and other safety measures.

"Face coverings could provide some additional protection against COVID-19, but Californians should not have a false sense of security if they choose to wear them. Make sure you're also staying six feet away from other people if you have to leave your home to get groceries or prescriptions," Dr. Mark Ghaly, California's health and human services secretary, said in a statement.

Damian Dovarganes / AP

A pedestrian wears a face mask in the Boyle Heights area of Los Angeles on Wednesday.

State officials have said people should not use medical or surgical masks, which are desperately needed by medical personnel.

Until now, the CDC has said that healthy people do not need a mask if they are not working in a healthcare setting or caring for an infected person. But in recent days, the federal agency has been weighing whether to modify its recommendations and endorse the use of homemade masks.

Riverside County health officials released new mask guidance Tuesday, covering such essential situations as grocery shopping and medical visits.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said Wednesday that everyone performing essential tasks, such as food shopping, should wear homemade, non-medical face coverings, or even bandannas, as people in other countries have done.

"To be clear, you should still stay at home. This isn't an excuse to suddenly all go out," Garcetti said.

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NOTICE TO POETS

The Poetry Board of the Village of Three Oaks is seeking submissions of original poetry for selection to appoint the official position of Poet Laureate for the Village of Three Oaks.

The Poet Laureate of Three Oaks, upon selection and appointment, will be awarded a $500 Honorarium and will hold the position for the calendar year 2020-2021.

Submissions of (3-5) original poems should be made to:

Harbor Arts
c/o Janet Blake
12136 Tower Hill Road
Sawyer, MI 49125

Or email to info@harborarts.com

Submission deadline is May 15, 2020 and must include: Name, Address, e-mail address, & Telephone Number. The poetry board will reserve the right to publish the submitted works.

The Poet Laureate is sponsored by Allen and Lynn Turner as a program of Harbor Arts.

PRIME TIME TV

SATURDAY EVENING APR. 4

	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
ABC 7 13 41 57	:00 ★★★ **The Ten Commandments** ('56) Charlton Heston, Yul Brynner. Moses leads the enslaved Jews to the Promised Land. CC						
CBS 2 3 22	**Ent. Tonight**	**Hawaii Five-0** CC		**S.W.A.T.** "S.O.S." CC		**48 Hours** (N) CC	
NBC 5 8 16	**Ac. Hollywood**	**Dateline NBC** CC				**Saturday Night Live** (N) CC	
FOX 17 222 28 32	**Modern Family**	**9-1-1** "Fallout" CC (DVS)		**Gordon Ramsay's 24 Hours to Hell**		**Fox 17 News at 10:00PM** (N) CC	
PBS 34	**Lawrence Welk**	**To Be Announced**		**As Time Goes By**	**As Time Goes By**	**Keep-Appear**	**Keep-Appear**
CW 25	**Big Bang Theory**	**Mike & Molly**	**Mike & Molly**	**Seinfeld** CC	**Seinfeld** CC	**News**	**Cops** CC
MNT 50	**Graham Bensinger**	**Dateline** A man is shot and killed.		**Dateline** CC		**Dateline** CC	
WCIU 26	**2 Broke Girls**	**Bob's Burgers**	**Bob's Burgers**	**Family Guy**	**Family Guy**	**Family Guy**	**Bob's Burgers**
WHME 46	:00 **Heartland**	**Heartland** "Long Road Back"		**Murdoch Mysteries** "Great Balls of Fire"		**Murdoch Mysteries** "Great Balls of Fire"	
WGN 9	**Friends** CC	**Friends** CC	**Friends** CC	**Friends** CC	**Friends** CC	**WGN Weekend News at Nine** (N)	
A&E	5:00 **Live PD** CC	:07 **Live PD: Rewind** (N) CC		**Live PD** "Live PD -- 04.04.20" (N) (L) CC			
AMC	★★★ **Gran Torino** ('08, Drama) Clint Eastwood, Bee Vang. A veteran faces his longtime prejudices. CC					**Line of Duty** (Series (P)) (N) CC	
Animal	**The Zoo**	**The Zoo**		**The Zoo** (N)		**The Zoo** (N)	
BET	**Madea**	★ **When the Bough Breaks** ('16) Morris Chestnut. (P).					
Big Ten	**TBA**	**To Be Announced**				**B1G**	**B1G**
Bravo	:00 ★★★ **Skyfall** ('12) Daniel Craig. James Bond must track down and destroy a threat to MI6. CC					★★★ **Skyfall** ('12) Daniel Craig.	
Cartoon	**Apple**	**Dragon**	**Dragon**	**American**	**American**	**Burgers**	**Fam. Guy**
Cinemax	:00 **Strike Back**	7:50 ★★★ **Deadpool 2** ('18, Action) Ryan Reynolds, Josh Brolin. CC				9:50 ★★ **Savages** ('12) CC	
CMT	**Twister**	★★ **Road House** ('89) Patrick Swayze, Kelly Lynch. CC					
CNBC	**Boss**	**Undercover Boss**		**Undercover Boss**		**Undercover Boss**	
CNN	**News**	**CNN Newsroom**		**The Eighties** "Raised on Television" CC			
Comedy	:45 ★★ **Super Troopers** ('01, Comedy) CC					**Rush Hour** ('98)	
Discovery	:00 **Bear vs. Shark**	**Expedition Unknown: Megalodon** CC		**Capsized: Blood in the Water** ('19) Josh Duhamel, Tyler Blackburn. CC			
Disney	**Gabby**	**Big City**	**Big City**	**Big City**	**Big City**	**Owl Hse.**	**Owl Hse.**
DIY	**Off Grid**	**Maine Cabin Masters**		**Maine Cabin Masters**		**Maine Cabin Masters**	
E!	★★ **Fifty Shades Darker** ('17) Dakota Johnson.					**Fifty Shades Freed**	
ESPN	**To Be Announced**			**ESPN Original Documentaries**			
ESPN2	**The Draft**	**UFC Main Event**		**UFC 249 Countdown**		**UFC Main Event**	
ESPNC	**Baseball**	**MLB Baseball**				**MLB Baseball**	
Food	**Diners**	**Diners**	**Diners**	**Diners**	**Diners**	**Diners**	**Diners**
Fox News	**Life**	**Watters' World** (N)		**Justice With Jeanine**		**Greg Gutfeld**	
Fox Sports	**NHL Hockey:** Lightning at Red Wings				**Jamie Daniels**		**Wingspan**
Freefrm	6:05 ★★★ **Pretty Woman** ('90)		:45 ★★★ **Pitch Perfect** ('12) Anna Kendrick. College students enter an a cappella competition. CC				
FX	:00 ★★ **Peter Rabbit** ('18) Voices of James Corden. CC			★★★ **The Secret Life of Pets** ('16) Voices of Louis C.K., Eric Stonestreet. CC			
Golf	**To Be Announced**					**To Be Announced**	
Hallmark	:00 **Just My Type** ('20) Bethany Joy Lenz. CC			**You're Bacon Me Crazy** ('20) Natalie Hall, Michael Rady. (P). CC			
HBO	5:45 **Shazam!**	★★ **Good Boys** ('19) Jacob Tremblay. (P). CC			**Westworld** "The Absence of Field" CC		**High Main.**
History	**Aliens**	**Ancient Aliens**		:02 **Ancient Aliens**		:05 **Ancient Aliens**	
HGTV	**Love-List**	**Love It or List It**		**Love It or List It**		**Nate and Jeremiah:**	
Learning	**Say Yes**	**Say Yes to the Dress: Atlanta** (N)				**Say Yes: ATL**	
Lifetime	**Remember Me**	**Mommy Is a Murderer** ('20) Bree Williamson, Heather McComb. (P). CC				:03 **My Daughter's Psycho Friend**	
MSNBC	**MSNBC**	**All In With**		**Rachel Maddow**		**The Last Word**	
MTV	**Ridic.**	**Ridic.**	**Ridic.**	**Ridic.**	**Ridic.**	**Ridic.**	**Ridic.**
NBCSCH	**To Be Announced**					**TBA**	**White**
NFL	**Football**	**A Football Life**		**A Football Life**		**A Football Life**	
Nick	**Loud**	**Danger**	**All That**	**Substitute**	**Sponge.**	**Friends**	**Friends**
NGEO	**Drugs,**	**Drugs, Inc.** "Crack" CC				:03 **Drugs, Inc.** CC	
Oxygen	**DNA of Murder**	**Snapped** "Tracie Miles" CC		**Snapped** "Helen Frazier" CC		**Snapped** "Betty Neumar" CC	
Parmt	**Batman Begins** ('05)		★★★★ **The Dark Knight** ('08) Christian Bale.				
Showtime	**Why Married?**	★★ **A Dog's Journey** ('19) Voice of Josh Gad, Kathryn Prescott. (P). CC				★★ **The Upside** ('17) Kevin Hart.	
Starz	**Once Upon**	7:56 ★ **The Intruder** ('19, Suspense) Michael Ealy. CC			:40 **Outlander** CC		**Zombieland**
STZENC	**Dude-My Car**	:10 ★★ **X-Men Origins: Wolverine** ('09, Action) Hugh Jackman. (P). CC				**Spartacus: War of the Damned** CC	
SyFy	:00 ★★ **Constantine** ('05, Fantasy) Keanu Reeves, Rachel Weisz. CC				★★ **Constantine** ('05, Fantasy) Keanu Reeves. CC		
TBS	:00 **Movie** CC			**Big Bang Theory**	**Big Bang Theory**	**Big Bang Theory**	**Big Bang Theory**
TCM	**Fiddler on the Roof**	★★★ **Targets** ('68) Boris Karloff, Tim O'Kelly. CC			:45 ★★★★ **The Last Picture Show** ('71, Drama) CC		
TMC	:00 ★★★ **District 9** ('09) Sharlto Copley. CC			**Tone-Deaf** ('19) Robert Patrick, Amanda Crew. CC			**Cabin Fever** ('02)
TNT	**Star Wars**	**Movie** CC (DVS)					
Travel	**Haunted**	**Woo.- Haunted**		**Woo.- Haunted**		**The Alaska Triangle**	
TV Land	**Two Men**	**Two Men**	**Two Men**	**Two Men**	**Two Men**	**Two Men**	**Two Men**
USA	**Modern Family**	**Modern Family**	**Modern Family**	**Modern Family**	**Modern Family**	**Modern Family**	**Modern Family**
VH1	6:00 **Think Like a Man**			★★★ **Barbershop: The Next Cut**			
WGN-A	:00 **Blue Bloods**	**Blue Bloods** Someone kills Luis' wife.		**Blue Bloods** "Strange Bedfellows"		**Blue Bloods** "Identity" CC (DVS)	

Girlfriend says man should find new home after prison

Jeanne Phillips
Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend of 15 years is in prison. We have two children together. Our relationship has been rough. We had a fight, and he went to jail for it. Another reason he went to prison is he violated his probation and failed to report.

I take the kids to see him, and he still wants us to be together. He has nowhere to go when he gets out. How do I tell him I don't want him back at my house without him retaliating on me? – Afraid In Texas

DEAR AFRAID: This is how. Tell him plainly that because of the circumstances that sent him to jail, you no longer want him living under your roof. It's bad for the children. Therefore, he will be finding other living arrangements when he is released.

He may not like it, but please remember you owe him nothing. You have to stand your ground for your children's sake. Should he stalk or threaten you in any way, go to the police. Tell them you are afraid of him and why, and ask about a restraining order because he is violent.

DEAR ABBY: When my husband and I eat a meal, as soon as he's finished he gets up and wanders around. We call that the "wandering" phase of his meal. I have asked him to no avail to stay seated and talk with me. I think it is disrespectful.

My husband also pulls out his phone when we are out with friends. I have told him that what he's doing is basically telling them he would rather see what's on his phone than converse with them. He doesn't do it for the entire meal, but when he does, it irritates me. How can I get basic manners across to him? – Lonely At Mealtime

DEAR LONELY: I knew a person years ago who had an impulse control problem similar to the one you describe your husband having. The man had been in an auto accident and suffered a traumatic brain injury. In your husband's case, it appears he either has attention deficit disorder or "suffers" from a lack of consideration for your feelings. There is help for the former, but you can't teach basic manners to someone who doesn't want to learn. You have my sympathy. Try not to let it give you heartburn.

DEAR ABBY: I work as a parcel clerk in a major retail store. The biggest part of my job is returning shopping carts from the parking lot to the lobby. Shoppers have a habit that makes my job a lot harder than it needs to be, so I want to get this message out to as many people as possible:

PLEASE push your shopping cart ALL THE WAY into the next one when you put it away. I'm not asking you to bring your cart all the way back to the store. Just remember that each cart can nest into the one in front of it.

You have no idea how much faster I could do my job if everybody did this. Thank you for helping get the word out. – Plea From The Parking Lot

DEAR PLEA: Glad to help. And as long as we are on the subject of shopping carts, may I add that those cute little straps that are meant to secure small children in the upper compartment of the cart tend to get caught and lock the carts together if folks are careless after they unhook their children. It can be next to impossible to untangle those carts. I speak from experience.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

New boyfriend's past tragedy haunts girlfriend

Carolyn Hax

Adapted from an online discussion.

DEAR CAROLYN: I am a 46-year-old divorced woman, no children, in a new relationship with a 53-year-old divorced man. My marriage ended about 10 years ago because we just weren't a good fit, and my boyfriend's ended much more recently and for a more heartbreaking reason. He and his wife lost a daughter to complications from an eating disorder before her 21st birthday, and their marriage fell apart as a casualty of their grief.

My boyfriend seems to have a healthy perspective on what happened and is sharing the details with me in gradual, responsible doses, but I often worry that I'm saying the wrong thing or not saying enough. I also find I'm self-conscious about asking for certain things in the relationship because he has been through so much.

Do you have any suggestions about not letting the specter of this tragedy harm a promising new relationship?– California

CALIFORNIA: This situation is indeed devastating. I think you're good to be so thoughtful, and it's a promising sign both that he's sharing gradually and that you've chosen to be respectful of his timetable.

I am a little concerned that you might be erring too much on the side of holding back. It's normal to be self-conscious – but so helpful if you can articulate that sometimes: "I find that I'm self-conscious about asking certain things because you have been through so much." Don't bring this up constantly – you don't want to shift the responsibility onto him for your emotional caretaking – but do venture in at key points when you feel yourself holding back and wondering if he'd actually appreciate more openness. This allows him to understand what it means when you don't respond to him right away, for example, or in a way he might not have expected.

Likewise, if you have the presence of mind in a moment when you're not sure what to say, say that: "I worry that I'll say the wrong thing. Is there something people have said or done for you that helps?"

Again, not every time, but at moments when it feels right. That gives both of you a voice in the pace of your emotional discovery.

Otherwise, keep up the patience, listening and compassion.

DEAR CAROLYN: I tried to be friends with an ex-boyfriend and just couldn't do it; the feelings were still there and I found it difficult to watch him move on with his life without me as a major part of it.

I made the mistake of telling him this and now, though my feelings have faded, he continues to hold me at a weird, lordly arm's length, telling me – and others – that he's doing me a favor by giving me space. Is there a nice way to say, "Uh, actually I'm over you," that seems believable? – Ex Friends

EX FRIENDS: "If I wasn't before, then I am now. Thanks for the push." Not that he'll get it; you will, though, and that's what matters. Congratulations on shedding this one.

Email Carolyn at tellme@washpost.com, follow her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/carolyn.hax or chat with her online at noon each Friday at www.washingtonpost.com.

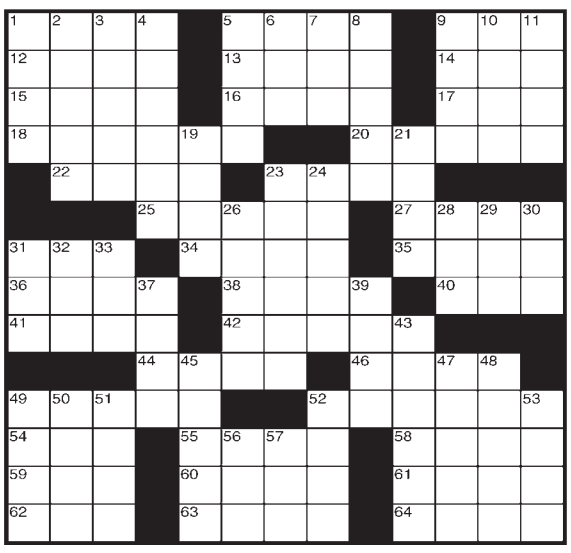
CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Santa —
5 D-Day month
9 Huge container
12 Nevada town
13 — — of bricks
14 Make a typo
15 Eight, in Roma
16 One million (pref.)
17 Charlotte of "Bananas"
18 Makes wavy
20 Taxi driver
22 Tub in the fridge
23 Cleans fish
25 Comical
27 Kentucky fort
31 Make taboo
34 Poet's black
35 Type of mate
36 Exploits
38 Ms. Dinesen
40 JAMA readers
41 Mets' former ballpark
42 Literary work
44 Blushing
46 Quit working
49 Celtic priest
52 Snow crystals
54 Na+ or Cl-
55 — vu
58 Play boisterously
59 "The Greatest"
60 Gusto
61 Where hackles rise
62 Caesar's law
63 Teases
64 Musher's vehicle

DOWN
1 Swamp critter
2 Type of rocket
3 Before
4 Went fast
5 Printer problems
6 Sporty truck
7 Eggy drink
8 Put into law
9 Action word
10 Speedy steed
11 Card after deuce
19 Tiny hole
21 Says please
23 Sleek
24 Humerus neighbors
26 Play awards
28 Gesture
29 Not their
30 Sweater sizes
31 Coach
32 Bat wood
33 Once named
37 Rani's garment
39 Benz or Malone
43 Longs for
45 More peculiar
47 Norwegian toast
48 Arizona city
49 Clock front
50 Movie part
51 Server operating system
52 Low-tech coolers
53 Made haste
56 Pharmacist — Lilly
57 Nudge

Answer to Previous Puzzle

C	U	B	E			R	E	X		T	O	M
A	M	A	N	A		A	C	E		U	K	E
M	A	R	T	S		C	O	N		B	A	D
			E	S	P	Y		O	B	E	Y	S
	A	P	R	I	L		A	N	A			
R	H	O		S	O	A	R		K	E	N	T
O	E	R		T	W	I	T		E	L	I	A
O	A	T	H		I	D	E	S		L	C	D
M	D	S	E		N	A	M	E		E	H	S
			A	U	G		I	N	A	N	E	
V	A	M	P	S		A	S	A	N			
O	U	I		U	M	P		T	I	A	R	A
I	D	S		R	O	E		E	M	B	E	D
D	I	T		Y	D	S			A	S	P	S



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JUMBLE

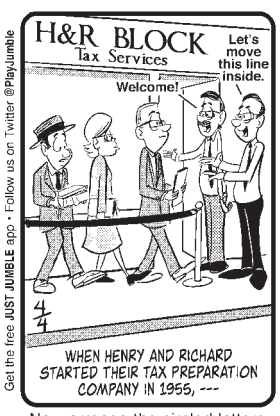
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LECOL

DGFEU

PLRIEP

TOFINY


H&R BLOCK
Tax Services
Let's move this line inside.
Welcome!
WHEN HENRY AND RICHARD STARTED THEIR TAX PREPARATION COMPANY IN 1955, ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

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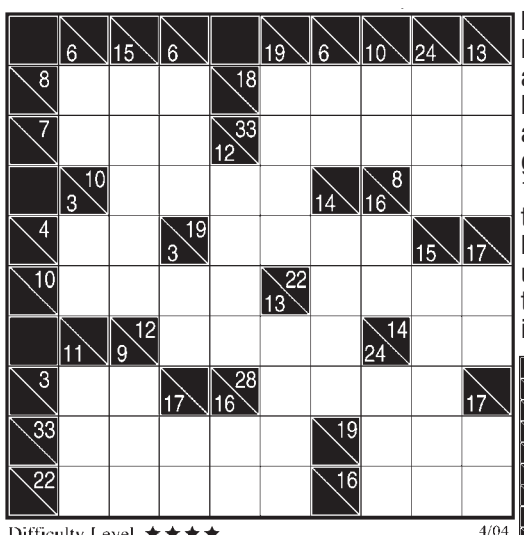
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers Monday)

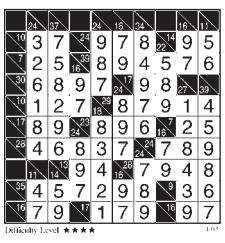
Yesterday's Jumbles: GUILT TEASE VIABLE WARMTH
Answer: When King Edward VIII abdicated the throne in 1936, it hit the UK like a — "TITLE WAIVE"

KAKURO



Difficulty Level ★★★★ 4/04

How to play: Numbers above the slash are across clues; numbers below the slash are down clues. The goal is to enter digits 1-9 in the white cells to add up to the number clues. You cannot use any digit more than once when adding up to a clue.



BRIDGE

Today's deal occurred during a tournament in Monte Carlo. How do you think the play should go in both four hearts and six clubs, West leading a diamond in each case?

North's two-spade rebid guaranteed at least a five-card suit and was forcing. The last two bids, South's four hearts and North's pass, were debatable, but let's get to the play.

Against four hearts, the defense began with two rounds of diamonds. South ruffed, drew all of the trumps (East discarding two spades) and cashed the club ace. When West showed out, South had to finish down one.

Suppose instead that South plays the club ace at trick three. West ruffs and leads another diamond. Declarer ruffs, cashes the heart ace, plays a trump to dummy's queen and finesses in clubs. West may ruff with his last heart, but South still has a trump left, and the spade ace is in the dummy to allow a second club finesse. It's the old story of declarer's establishing his side suit first when he holds a two-suiter.

Playing in six clubs, if the defense begins with two rounds of diamonds, South has an easy time. He ruffs, cashes the club ace and uses dummy's two entries, the spade ace and heart queen, for two trump finesses.

Instead, East must switch to a spade at trick two. Now declarer has to consider the psychology of the individual. Does East have all four trumps, in which case declarer must take an immediate club finesse? Or has East set a devilish trap, West having the singleton club queen?

North 04-04-20
♠ A J 10 6 5
♥ Q 4
♦ Q 10 4
♣ 5 3 2

West
♠ Q 7 4 2
♥ 9 8 6 3
♦ 9 7 6 3 2
♣ —

East
♠ K 9 3
♥ 10 2
♦ A K J 5
♣ Q 9 8 7

South
♠ 8
♥ A K J 7 5
♦ 8
♣ A K J 10 6 4

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♦ 7

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

				8		4	7	
				3	9			2
		1	4	7			8	
			9			1		
8	4			1			2	9
		6			8			
	6			9	4	2		
4			7	6				
	2	8		5				

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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

8	3	2	6	7	4	9	1	5
7	4	9	2	1	5	6	8	3
5	6	1	9	8	3	4	2	7
3	2	5	4	9	1	7	6	8
1	8	4	7	2	6	3	5	9
9	7	6	5	3	8	2	4	1
4	1	7	8	6	9	5	3	2
2	5	3	1	4	7	8	9	6
6	9	8	3	5	2	1	7	4

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Impeachment not a valid excuse for slow virus response

Jonah Goldberg

A reporter asked President Donald Trump this week what he thought of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's claim that impeachment distracted Trump from tackling the coronavirus epidemic earlier.

The president gave a rambling answer but ultimately settled on a firm no.

"I don't think I would have done better had I not been impeached, OK?" Trump said. "And I think that's a great tribute to something. Maybe it's a tribute to me. But I don't think I would've acted any differently or I don't think I would've acted any faster."

Trump's response threw cold water on what was becoming a common talking point on the right. A week earlier, Henry Olsen, a very Trump-sympathetic columnist for the Washington Post, had written a column headlined, "Let's be honest. Impeachment hurt Trump's response to coronavirus." As China was locking down its cities, Olsen argued, "the White House was focused on addressing this threat to its survival, not on preparing for a threat from China that might never even materialize."

Other conservatives, including my friends and former National Review colleagues Rich Lowry and Dan McLaughlin, made similar arguments. They emphasized how fortunate we are, in retrospect, that Republicans refused to allow witnesses at the trial, or the distraction might have lasted well into February.

As a matter of analysis, this argument is plausible, perhaps even probable. As Trump repeatedly reminds us, he made a tough and controversial decision to curtail travel from China early on. That was the right thing to do. But it was only a wise decision because it bought us time to marshal resources to fight the inevitable outbreak here in the states. Then, the administration didn't use that time wisely and failed to adequately prepare.

Consider that both South Korea and the United States recorded their first confirmed case on Jan. 20. South Korea immediately went into overdrive with testing, social distancing and contact tracing. The U.S. did not. The fact that South Korea has the pandemic under relative control and the U.S. doesn't speaks volumes.

But the White House insists that the president always took the threat seriously.

"I don't believe the president has ever belittled the threat of the coronavirus," Vice President Mike Pence said this week, despite countless examples of the president belittling the threat of the coronavirus.

Politically, it's smart for McConnell to blame impeachment. He's chiefly interested in his own reelection and protecting the Republican majority in the Senate. But Trump's calculation is different. Both psychologically and politically, he thinks admitting error is a profound mistake. Admitting he took his eye off the ball because of impeachment might not go over well with the voters outside his base he needs to get reelected. Hence the talking point that he's done everything right from day one.

My problem with the pin-it-on-impeachment argument is twofold. First, it confuses the difference between an explanation and an excuse. If I tell you that I robbed a liquor store because I wanted the money to buy a new car, that's an explanation, not an excuse. If I did it because kidnappers threatened to harm my family, that's an excuse.

For people who think there was no merit whatsoever to the impeachment of Trump, and that whatever mistakes he made in his response to the coronavirus were because of it, blaming the Democrats makes some sense.

But that raises my second objection. Whether or not you think the president should have been impeached or removed, Trump is not simply a victim. As Ramesh Ponnuru (also of National Review) notes, this attempt to shift the blame "implicitly treats Democratic behavior as the variable and Republican behavior as the constant."

Some Democrats have always wanted to impeach Trump simply because they can't stand him. But others – most importantly House Speaker Nancy Pelosi – resisted such efforts by the bomb-throwers. Then, Trump did something – chiefly, he pressured Ukraine to muddy up Joe Biden – and that changed the equation.

If impeaching the president is a bad idea because it might distract him from a crisis like the one we're now in, behaving in a way that might invite impeachment is a bad idea, too.

In other words, there are no constants here. All the players are dependent variables playing off each other.

So many of the arguments marshalled to defend Trump take it as a given that he can't change, so everyone else should accommodate him, and if they don't, they're to blame for his irrational response. He's like the cantankerous uncle who comes to Thanksgiving dinner. He won't change, so there's no point in getting mad at his behavior. Instead, you get mad at the nephew who sets him off: "You should have known better!"

Maybe that's true of the nephew, but it's no less true of the uncle.

Jonah Goldberg is an editor-at-large of National Review Online. Email: JonahsColumn@aol.com.

Everyday heroism is everywhere

Leonard Pitts

My editor groaned when I told her the subject of this column. In a moment, you'll be groaning, too.

Last week in this space, I opined upon "the quiet death of an Italian priest." Giuseppe Berardelli was 72 and died of the novel coronavirus. This happened, I reported, after he gave away his respirator, which had been bought for him by his parishioners. I wrote that he insisted it be given to a younger patient who was struggling to breathe.

-Well, Father Berardelli did, indeed, die of the coronavirus and he was, in fact, 72. But as for the rest, well, in the words of an old song, "It just didn't happen that way."

The Catholic News Agency spoke with the secretary general of Father Berardelli's diocese, who said that while he was, indeed, a self-sacrificing man, Berardelli didn't give his personal respirator away; he didn't even have one. "There was not a donated respirator," Father Giulio Dellavite said. "There have not been any respirators coming from outside of the hospital."

Apparently, the false story originated with an Italian news site, Araberara. It was amplified by a tweet from one James Martin, an official with the communications office of the Holy See. From there, it was picked up by news media around the world, including the BBC, Sky News, Newsweek, CBS – and me.

And the anguish I now feel at having to retract it has little to do with journalistic embarrassment and everything to do with the fact that, well ... this was a story I needed. That's why I groaned. It's probably why my editor groaned and why many of you are doing the same. Like Jean from Madison, Wis., who had written me that she was "humbled" by Berardelli's sacrifice, Doreen, from St. Louis, who said, "May we all try to follow his grace," and Merrie, from Salem, Oregon, who said it "brought tears to my eyes."

Debunking this story feels not unlike kicking a puppy. Small wonder. In a crisis that finds so many of us looking only to our own interests, here was a man rejecting the selfish and embracing the selfless. There, is however, a silver lining here. If Berardelli's perceived heroism was extraordinary, well, we are surrounded, still, by heroism that is "merely" ordinary.

In other words, heroism easily taken for granted.

Consider the medical professionals working punishing hours on the front lines of the pandemic without personal protective gear. And the journalists risking their lives to gather and report the news. And the cashiers still ringing us up and the postal workers still moving our mail. And governors like Cuomo of New York, Newsom of California and Hogan of Maryland. While some of their counterparts – looking at you, DeSantis of Florida – behave like the shark-denying mayor from "Jaws," they model what has become a rare attribute: statesmanship.

There is ordinary heroism, too, in the rest of us simply struggling to get through this intact. The British morale poster from World War II comes to mind: "Keep Calm and Carry On." Remarkably, many of us are doing just that. In a crisis that has upended our lives more broadly and profoundly than almost anything in the last century, we're still getting dinner on, still changing diapers, still praying, writing, laughing, singing – being human.

At a bookstore I know, you pre-purchase by phone now and pick up curbside from a guy in gloves standing six feet distant. And why not? As Americans – as human beings – this is what we've always done: improvise, adapt, find ways to live through. Yes, we mistakenly thought we glimpsed heroism in a single quiet death.

But it is still there, unmistakable in a million quiet lives.

Leonard Pitts is a columnist for The Miami Herald. Email: lpittsmiamiherald.com.

ANOTHER OPINION

Beware of the many virus-related scams

Of course, scammers are trying to take advantage of the coronavirus pandemic, but common sense is a powerful tool to avoid getting ripped off. If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

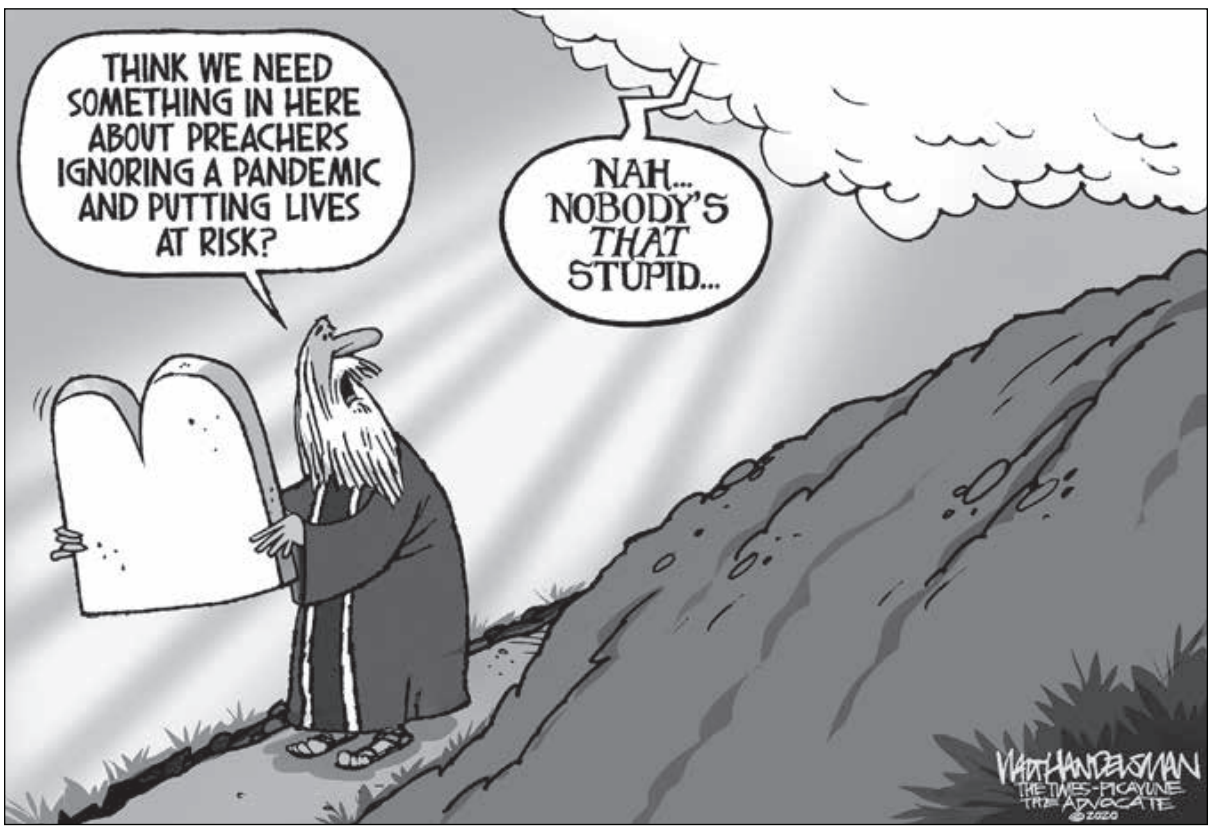
A Tuesday story in Business Insider warned about people getting social media requests from official-sounding senders to provide personal information, purportedly to allow them to quickly get the up to $1,200 that is being given to eligible Americans in coming weeks under a recently enacted economic stimulus law. The story also reported some people were being mailed fake stimulus checks that they were told would only be valid if they called a specified number and provided personal information.

A Wednesday story in The San Diego Union-Tribune explained how texts purporting to be from Costco "offer" its members "freebies," a "stimulus check" or a "stimulus package" if they click on a hyperlink that the FBI says may lead to ransomware, malware or other fraudulent methods to steal identity, financial or personal information.

In another example, a Wednesday story in the Washington Post revealed how con artists are using email, phone calls and the internet to sell bogus remedies for coronavirus, including "special toothpaste." There are no over-the-counter or mail-order products available to treat or cure the virus now. If and when there are, that will be huge news.

Everyone should be leery of these scams and warn family members and friends about their prevalence. Shame on anyone using an emergency of this magnitude to exploit scared, vulnerable people.

– The San Diego Union-Tribune


THINK WE NEED SOMETHING IN HERE ABOUT PREACHERS IGNORING A PANDEMIC AND PUTTING LIVES AT RISK?
NAH... NOBODY'S THAT STUPID...
MATT HANDELSMAN
THE TIMES-PICAYUNE
THE ADVOCATE
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A possible upside: Maybe workplace flexibility will change for the better

By RACHEL GRESZLER
The Heritage Foundation

COVID-19 has, to put it mildly, altered our way of life. Most of these changes – like only leaving the house for essential reasons and staying at least 6 feet away from nonfamily members – will quickly dissipate.

But some changes could stick around, at least in part, for the better.

Hopefully we'll all wash our hands more regularly than we did before. Some people will probably stick with their daily walks outside, or keep checking in on elderly neighbors.

And there's one other potential benefit to many workers: a shift toward more flexible work schedules and increased telework.

Most businesses have been forced to close their doors and limit their operations to what can be done remotely.

This is obviously easier for some businesses than others. But many businesses and individuals, as part of a services-dominant economy that has experienced rapid growth in technology, have been able to continue working remotely, at least in part, even amid citywide and statewide shutdowns.

Prior to COVID-19, remote work and increased workplace flexibility were already on the rise in the U.S. This was due in part to improvements in technology that make such arrangements possible.

But worker demand was also a driving force. According to a survey by Zenefits, 77 percent of workers say flexible work is a major consideration in their job searches, and a FlexJobs survey showed that 30 percent of workers have left a job because it didn't provide flexible work options.

And 51 percent of people who enjoy the flexibility of freelance work (including the self-employed, contractors, gig workers and other independent workers) say that no amount of money would definitely cause them give up freelancing for traditional employment.

Parents especially value workplace flexibility and work-family balance – even more than salary and benefits – with over 80 percent of parents listing these as their most important factors in a potential job.

And as an increasing number of workers find themselves caring for aging baby boomer parents, they too want increased workplace flexibility. According to 2019 Freelancing in America Report, 10.5 million workers (18 percent of all freelancers) say they freelance because their family obligations prevent them from working for a traditional employer.

Flexibility is also extremely important – often essential – for individuals with health issues or disabilities. According to the same Freelancing report, 11.4 million workers (20 percent of those who freelance) say that their health condition prevents them from working for a traditional employer. But they are able to perform flexible freelancing jobs.

Fortunately, employers are responding to workers desires. According to a 2019 Survey of hiring managers by USA Today and LinkedIn, offering more flexible work schedules was the most common way employers were competing to attract workers amid the then-record-low 3.5 percent unemployment rate.

Yet many employers remain skeptical of flexible and remote work for a number of reasons.

For starters, there's innate value in face-to-face interactions with co-workers, and that's not going to change. If anything, the current situation has clarified the difficulty of performing certain functions remotely, and the value of personal interaction.

It can also be hard for certain employers to monitor workers' productivity when they don't see them in the office or know when they are working. Some workers are more productive with flexible and remote options, while others do better with structure, which can make it hard, particularly for large employers, to make flexibility and telework uniformly available.

Today's forced telework experience provides an opportunity for workers to prove if they can maintain their productivity and responsiveness from home, and an opportunity for employers to learn what type of work can be done remotely, and what is still difficult or impossible.

In many cases, what was difficult or impossible before is now possible because businesses have been forced to adapt and implement new technologies.

Some of those changes will stick, and some won't. But one benefit of forced remote work could be an increase in workplace flexibility and teleworking options.

There will be some costs for employers of implementing such policies, yet the benefits could be significant. And not just for individuals and employers – but for the entire economy, because it can mean more individuals participating in the labor force.

That's a triple-positive-whammy for the economy because it means more output, higher incomes and that workers can keep more of what they earn because fewer taxes are needed to support government safety net programs.

COVID-19 has brought tragic losses of lives and enormous economic disruptions. But it will likely also result in life-saving and life-improving changes in medicine and lifestyle.

A potential silver lining could be increased workplace flexibility that will could help many Americans – particularly individuals with disabilities and caregivers – better manage, and enjoy, both their work and personal lives.

Rachel Greszler is a research fellow in economics at The Heritage Foundation (heritage.org).

Write us

Here's how to submit a letter to the editor:

Email: letters@TheHP.com

Regular mail: Editorial Page, The Herald-Palladium, P.O. Box 128, St. Joseph, MI 49085

All letters should include a daytime telephone number and street address for verification. Letters must be 500 words or fewer. The Herald-Palladium reserves the right to edit letters for length, style, grammar, inappropriate content and libel. Anonymous letters will not be published.

OBITUARIES

Daniel W. Strine

March 7, 1947 – March 30, 2020

Daniel W. Strine, 73, of St. Joseph passed away Monday, March 30, 2020, at his home.

A Celebration of Life Service will be announced at a later date, due to the COVID-19 health concerns. Memorial donations in Dan's name may be made to First Baptist Church, St. Joseph, or St. Joseph Football. Those wishing to sign Dan's memory book online may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com.

Dan was born March 7, 1947, in Benton Harbor, to Robert and Dorothy (Jones) Strine. He graduated from St. Joseph High School, class of 1966. Dan served his country in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. On Feb. 28, 1981, he married the former Penny Rea in St. Joseph. Dan was employed by St. Joseph Public Works Department, retiring after 30 years. He was a former member of Oakridge Baptist Church and a current member of First Baptist Church. He served as an AWANA Commander with both churches. Dan was a member of VFW Post 1137, where he was a past commander. Dan volunteered with the St. Joseph Football program and enjoyed his time with the St. Joseph McDonald's coffee group. He followed Chicago sports – Bears, Black Hawks and White Sox, and the University of Michigan Wolverines. Dan enjoyed trips to the beach and cherished the time spent with his family and many friends.

Dan is survived by his wife, Penny; two sons, Kevin and Keith Strine of St. Joseph; his siblings, Lynda Strine of Stevensville, John Strine of St. Joseph, Evelyn (Barry) Will of Huber Heights, Ohio, and Bill (Jeanne) Strine of St. Joseph; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert Strine and Dorothy Rush; and a sister, Ruth Anne Strine.

Susan Jo (Trapp) Trimble

May 22, 1943 – April 1, 2020

Susan Jo (Trapp) Trimble of Three Oaks passed away on Wednesday, April 1, 2020, at her home, surrounded by her loving family.

A private family gathering to celebrate her life will be held at a later date. Arrangements are entrusted to Purely Cremations – Starks Family Funeral Homes and Cremation Services, 926-9440. Memorials may be made to the Harbor Country Rotary Foundation in memory of Susan Jo Trimble. Those who wish to leave an online condolence may do so at www.purelycremations.org.

Susan was born on May 22, 1943, in Niles, to Edwin and Louise (Schwandt) Trapp. After graduating from Buchanan High School, she attended Alma College, receiving a bachelor's degree in education. She taught sixth-grade reading and social studies for 30 years in the River Valley School District before retiring. Susan's second career was owning and operating "Paws and Read" in Sawyer. In 2012, she closed the location after 12 very successful years. Susan married the love of her life, Richard Torgerson Trimble, on June 13, 2016, at Culver Military Academy in Culver, Ind. She was an avid reader all her life, enjoyed traveling, sought adventure and adored her many cats over the years. Her travels included trips to Disney in California and Florida, Hawaii, Alaska, Whitefish Point, the Black Hills and Ocracoke Island. Above all, Susan loved spending time with her beloved family.

Susan is survived by her husband, Richard; daughters, Alison (Shawn) Lynch, LeighAnn (Bill) Perrow, their father, Phil Bender, and Stacey (Stoney) Bumgardener; grandchildren: Justin, Hanah, Addison, Hunter, Cooper and Walker; and sister, Maralee Warmbrand.

Susan was preceded in death by her parents.

Death notices

Barbara Jacobs Boydston, 69, of St. Joseph died April 1, 2020, at The Willows, St. Joseph. Starks & Menchinger Chapel and Cremation Services, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Nicole Chalmers, 41, of Forest City, N.C., formerly of Bridgman died April 1, 2020, at home. Harrelson Funeral Home, Forest City, (828) 657-6383.

Glyn Durston II, 75, of Stevensville died March 28, 2020, at home. Neptune Society, Grand Rapids, Mich., (616) 656-0083.

Greggery A. "Too Tall" Williams, 52, of Niles died March 27, 2020. Swem Chapel and Cremation Services, Buchanan, 695-6881.

Nicole Chalmers

April 14, 1978 – April 1, 2020

Nicole Chalmers, 41, of Forest City, N.C., and formerly of Bridgman passed away Wednesday, April 1, 2020, at her residence in her mother's loving arms.

Nicole was born April 14, 1978, in St. Joseph, to Robin Dolezel of Bridgman and her father, Samuel Chalmers, also of Bridgman. Nicole worked at West Rock Industries and was an animal lover. She was an avid Chicago sports fan, which included the Cubs, Bears and Blackhawks, and was also a fan of all Notre Dame athletics. She was especially excited to see the Cubs win the World Series. Nicole enjoyed spending time with her friends and family, country music and working on puzzles.

In addition to her parents, those left to cherish her memory include: her partner, Makayla Gordon; stepfather, Al Zemola; two brothers, Sam Chalmers Jr. (Melody) of Tunica, Mich., and Tony Chalmers of Three Oaks; grandmother, Mildred Dolezel of Sawyer; and grandparents, Bob and Wynona Chalmers of Bridgman. She is also survived by three aunts, Cheryl Dolezel, Michele Kiel (Rick) and Sue Busse (Dennis); two uncles, Jim Dolezel and Gary Chalmers; and numerous cousins.

She was preceded in death by her grandfather, Jean Dolezel; and several of her fur babies.

A gathering of family and friends to celebrate Nicole's life will be held later this summer when we can all be together again.

Greggery A. Williams

Oct. 15, 1967 – March 27, 2020

Greggery Allen "Too Tall" Williams, 52, of Niles passed away on Friday, March 27, 2020, of natural causes.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date due to current events. Those wishing to send a condolence or memory for the family to reflect on may do so at www.swemchapel.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to Swem Chapel, Buchanan.

Gregg was born on Oct. 15, 1967, in Buchanan. In school, Gregg was a great athlete and loved sports. He worked the majority of his life in construction and most recently for Thor Motor Coach, which he enjoyed. Gregg was a Notre Dame fan and a die-hard Steelers fan. Over the years he played on several pool leagues and men's slow pitch softball, enjoyed throwing darts and drinking his Budweiser and apple pie. Gregg had a wide sense of humor and could get anybody to smile with his witty remarks. He had a heart of gold and was an incredibly selfless man, constantly putting others needs before his own. Most of all, Gregg cherished time spent with his family and grandkids, making sure they were always taken care of.

Gregg is survived by his children, Krystal Williams, Buddy (Heather) Williams (their mother, Karol Williams), Mackenzie Helms and Hannah Williams (and their mother, Bobbie Jo Helms); grandchildren: Donavan "Ducky," Kaylana "Bookah," Tayvion "Pitty Pit Pit," Matthew "Mater," Kamdyn "Killa Kam," Zevon "Wolfie," Kalliyan "Buggy," Kalayah "Buzz" and Kacen "Bud"; siblings: James (Maggie) Haygood, Jeff (Raina) Haygood, Laurie Williams-Simmons, Walter Williams Jr. and Michael (Judee) Williams; stepfather, Larry Freeling; and a host of nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Walter Williams Sr.; mother, Patricia (Moore) Freeling; and brother, Charlie Williams.

Barbara Jacobs Boydston

June 13, 1950 – April 1, 2020

Barbara Jacobs Boydston, 69, died April 1, 2020, at The Willows Assisted Living facility in St.Joseph. Cause of death was early-onset Alzheimer's.

Barbara, daughter of Esther and Elwood Jacobs, was born in Chicago but grew up in Benton Harbor, where she attended Fairplain Elementary and Benton Harbor High. Following graduation from Michigan State with a degree in interior design, she went to work for Ramada and began a long association with the hospitality industry. An early career opportunity took her to the Bay Area, where she met her husband, electrical engineer Roger Boydston. Together with their son, Craig, the young family loved the great outdoors and explored many of the scenic wonders of the West. The mid-1970s explosion of luxury hotels and casinos in Las Vegas provided fertile ground for Barbara's career. She fell in love with the city and stayed in Las Vegas for almost 20 years, racking up professional achievements for some of the major hospitality companies in the country. In many cases, longstanding business relationships grew into lifelong friendships. In her spare time, she expressed her creativity and eye for dramatic textures and bold colors by weaving stunning textiles on her huge loom.

Throughout her life, Barbara exuded warmth and positive energy. She maintained an inner core of optimism and grace. You could see it in her dazzling smile; you could hear it in her laugh. She was so proud of Craig and loved him so much. These were essential parts of Barbara, and these traits continued to define her presence even at the end.

Barbara is survived by son, Craig Boydston of Los Angeles, and his wife, Thais Castralli; and step-daughter, Heather Boydston of Ohio.

Because of restrictions in place as a result of the coronavirus epidemic, funeral services will be private. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Contributions in Barbara's memory can be made to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America. Those wishing to leave an online condolence may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to Starks & Menchinger Chapel and Cremation Services, 556-9450.

Rosie L. McCoy

July 11, 1937 – March 28, 2020

Rosie Lee Scott Woods McCoy, 82, of Benton Harbor departed this life on March 28, 2020.

A private graveside service for immediate family will be held at Crystal Springs Cemetery, Benton Harbor. Those wishing to sign the guest book online may do so at www.robbinsbrothersfh.com.

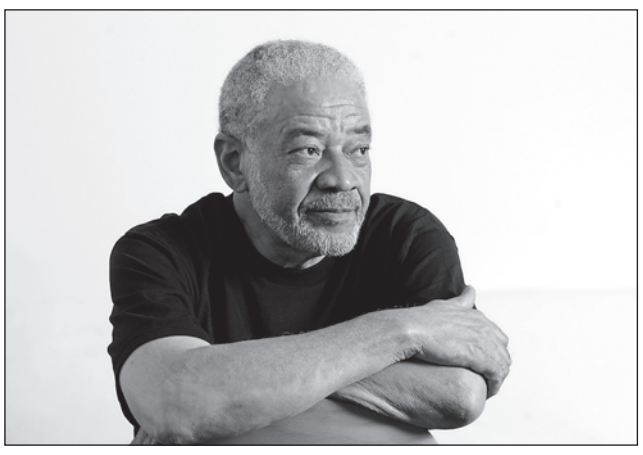
Rosie was born on July 11, 1937, to Willie B. Scott and Catherine Charlotte Bailey-Scott in Mobile, Ala. Rosie and her family were faithful and active members of the Main Street Seventh-day Adventist Church (HASDA) and former member of the Church of God in Christ. She was a nurse's aide at Fuller's Rest and Clarmont nursing homes and was a business owner of three stores, including, J & R and Jutch Import & Export Co. Rosie was also a dedicated wife, mother, foster care worker for over 15 years and retired homemaker.

Rosie leaves to cherish her memories, her children: Bernice Mason, Joyce Joseph, Doris (Andre) Davis, Karol Dorsett, Brenda (Joe) Peet, Richard (Ora) Woods Jr., Jeremiah (Bridgett) McCoy Jr. and Jeffery (Lela) McCoy; 24 grandchildren; 35 great-grandchildren; six great-great-grandchildren; friend, Dorothy (Dottie) Moon; sisters, Lillian (the late James) Perry and Mary A. Jones; brothers, Warren P. Jones and Eugene Bailey; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Rosie was preceded in death by her husband, Jeremiah McCoy Sr.; former husband, Richard Woods Sr.; parents, Willie Scott and Catherine Bailey; sister, Catherine Scott; brothers, William Jones, Tommy Jones, Strand Jones and Eugene Bailey; son, Jarvis McCoy; sons-in-law, David L. Mason and Charles Dorsett; and granddaughter, Davina Mason.

'Lean On Me' singer Bill Withers dies at 81

By MARK KENNEDY
Associated Press



Reed Saxon / AP

Singer-songwriter Bill Withers poses in his office in Beverly Hills, Calif., in 2006.

Bill Withers, who wrote and sang a string of soulful songs in the 1970s that have stood the test of time, including " Lean on Me, " "Lovely Day" and "Ain't No Sunshine," has died from heart complications, his family said in a statement to The Associated Press. He was 81.

The three-time Grammy Award winner, who withdrew from making music in the mid-1980s, died on Monday in Los Angeles, the statement said. His death comes as the public has drawn inspiration from his music during the coronavirus pandemic, with health care workers, choirs, artists and more posting their own renditions on "Lean on Me" to help get through the difficult times.

"We are devastated by the loss of our beloved, devoted husband and father. A solitary man with a heart driven to connect to the world at large, with his poetry and music, he spoke honestly to people and connected them to each other," the family statement read. "As private a life as he lived close to intimate family and friends, his music forever belongs to the world. In this difficult time, we pray his music offers comfort and entertainment as fans hold tight to loved ones."

Withers' songs during his brief career have become the soundtracks of countless engagements, weddings and backyard parties. They have powerful melodies and perfect grooves melded with a smooth voice that conveys honesty and complex emotions without vocal acrobatics.

"Lean on Me," a paean to friendship, was performed at the inaugurations of both Barack Obama and Bill Clinton. "Ain't No Sunshine" and "Lean on Me" are among Rolling Stone's list of the 500 Greatest Songs of All Time.

"He's the last African-American Everyman," musician and band leader Questlove told Rolling Stone in 2015. "Bill Withers is the closest thing black people have to a Bruce Springsteen."

His death caused a torrent of appreciation on social media, including from former Obama adviser Valerie Jarrett, who said Withers' music has been a cherished part of her life. "It added to my joy in the good times, and also gave me comfort and inspiration when I needed it most," she tweeted.

Billy Dee Williams tweeted "your music cheered my heart and soothed my soul" and Chance the Rapper said Withers' songs are "some of the best songs of all time" and "my heart really hurts for him." Lenny Kravitz said "My soul always has and always will be full of your music."

"We lost a giant of songwriting today," ASCAP President and Chairman Paul Williams said in a statement. "Bill Withers' songs are among the most treasured and profound in the American songbook – universal in the way they touch people all over the world, transcending genre and generation. He was a beautiful man with a stunning sense of humor and a gift for truth."

Withers, who overcame a childhood stutter, was born the last of six children in the coal mining town of Slab Fork, West Virginia. After his parents divorced when he was 3, Withers was raised by his mother's family in nearby Beckley.

He joined the Navy at 17 and spent nine years in the service as an aircraft mechanic installing toilets. After his discharge, he moved to Los Angeles, worked at an aircraft parts factory, bought a guitar at a pawn shop and recorded demos of his tunes in hopes of landing a recording contract.

In 1971, signed to Sussex Records, he put out his first album, "Just As I Am," with the legendary Booker T. Jones at the helm. It had the hits "Grandma's Hands" and "Ain't No Sunshine," which was inspired by the Jack Lemmon film "Days of Wine and Roses." He was photographed on the cover, smiling and holding his lunch pail.

At Madrid field hospital, staff seeks to provide human touch

By ARITZ PARRA
Associated Press

MADRID — There's a bookshelf filled with donated novels. Hotel toiletries rest on cardboard boxes turned into bedside tables. Meals are served with personalized notes from the staff. And an army of volunteers do their best to keep up an air of optimism amid the pandemic.

At a cavernous convention center that has become Spain's largest makeshift hospital, these touches of kindness and camaraderie are helping to make the days and nights more bearable for patients afflicted with COVID-19.

"Despite the distance that we keep from each other, there is a sense of community," said Jonan Basterra as he waited for the oxygen in his blood to reach a level high enough so he can go home.

The 50-year-old patient dreams about defeating the virus so he can shave off the beard he has grown and celebrate with ice cream. In the meantime, he rests in bed No. 15.18, making friends with others or reading the books that a nurse brought from home and offered in an improvised open library.

"We are all in this together and we are all going to get out of here together," he told The Associated Press via video call shortly before he was delivered a potato omelet – one of Spain's national dishes – with a personalized note from the hospital's makeshift kitchen. The cooks had learned on social media about Basterra's craving for the food.

Most of the 1,850 patients brought to the Ifema field hospital are not in serious condition. In fact, 800 had been discharged by Thursday, although six have died since doors opened 12 days ago.

But the facility is helping to free up space in overburdened hospitals nearby. Madrid has recorded nearly 4,500 of Spain's 11,000 deaths, so many that a new ice skating rink was being prepared on Friday to receive bodies, the third temporary morgue in the region.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

25 years ago – 1995

Gateway Center, an agency that employs mentally handicapped adults, plans to break ground as early as next week for the expansion of its paper recycling operation in Berrien Springs.

Gateway's president, Ron Matthews, said "Gateway has been called one of the best six recycling projects in the world by the Institute of Local Self-Reliance, an international research and educational organization." Gateway has been able to assist organizations in 17 states and three foreign countries in starting recycling projects like theirs.

35 years ago – 1985

The Lake Michigan Catholic Area Board of Education Wednesday voted unanimously to "regretfully" accept the resignation of Sister Rita Wenzlick as elementary school principal. Sister Rita has accepted a job as administrator of Sacred Heart Academy in Mount Pleasant, Mich., where she had been a religion teacher before accepting the principal's job here.

50 years ago – 1970

Mercy Hospital in Benton Harbor this week opened a new tri-county heart and artery disease diagnosis center. The center, a one-of-a-kind unit two years in the planning and over $200,000 in the accomplishment, has the endorsement of eight area hospitals.

The first two heart catheterizations ever accomplished in southwestern Michigan happened this week under the direction of Dr. Frank Bunker, assisted by Dr. John Carter and a team of 10 doctors, nurses and technicians.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Saturday, April 4, the 95th day of 2020. There are 271 days left in the year.

Highlight in history:

On April 4, 1968, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., 39, was shot and killed while standing on a balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee; his slaying was followed by a wave of rioting (Washington, D.C., Baltimore and Chicago were among cities particularly hard hit.) Suspected gunman James Earl Ray later pleaded guilty to assassinating King, then spent the rest of his life claiming he'd been the victim of a setup.

On this date:

In 1841, President William Henry Harrison succumbed to pneumonia one month after his inaugural, becoming the first U.S. chief executive to die in office.

In 1850, the city of Los Angeles was incorporated.

In 1917, the U.S. Senate voted 82-6 in favor of declaring war against Germany (the House followed suit two days later by a vote of 373-50).

In 1933, the Navy airship USS Akron crashed in severe weather off the New Jersey coast with the loss of 73 lives.

In 1945, during World War II, U.S. forces liberated the Nazi concentration camp Ohrdruf in Germany. Hungary was liberated as Soviet forces cleared out remaining German troops.

In 1983, the space shuttle Challenger roared into orbit on its maiden voyage. (It was destroyed in the disaster of January 1986.

5-Day Forecast for St. Joseph

Today	Tonight	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Few Showers	Few Showers	Partly Cloudy	Chance Showers	Scattered T-storms	Few Showers
49°	37°	46° / 39°	53° / 45°	56° / 48°	52° / 42°

Local Outlook

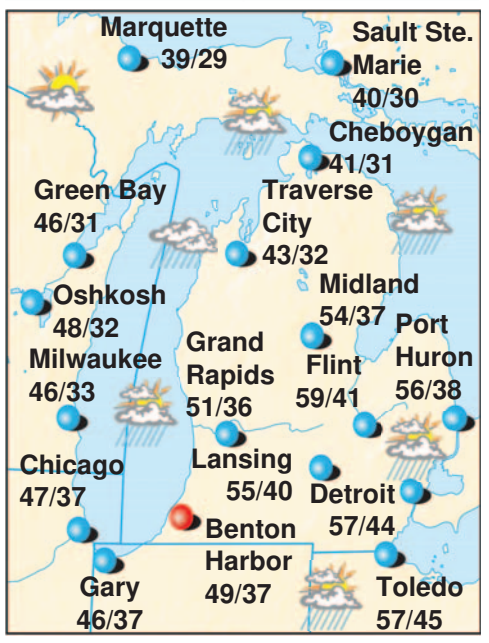
Today we will see mostly cloudy skies with a 60% chance of showers, high temperature of 49°, humidity of 75%. West wind 10 to 14 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with a 60% chance of showers, overnight low of 37°. West southwest wind 7 to 14 mph.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise	7:22 a.m.
Sunset	8:15 p.m.
Moonrise	4:05 p.m.
Moonset	5:45 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
4/7	4/14	4/22	4/30

Regional Map



Local Almanac

Benton Harbor Yesterday

Temperature

High	67°
Low	44°
Normal High	55°
Normal Low	34°
Record High	80° in 2012
Record Low	20° in 2013

Precipitation

Yesterday	0.00"
Month to date	0.00"
Normal for month	0.28"
Year to date	6.89"
Normal Year to date	5.93"

Air Quality

Yesterday	40
Main Offender	Ozone

The higher the number, the greater the need for people with respiratory problems to reduce outside activity.

0-50	Good
51-100	Moderate
101-150	Sensitive
151-200	Unhealthy

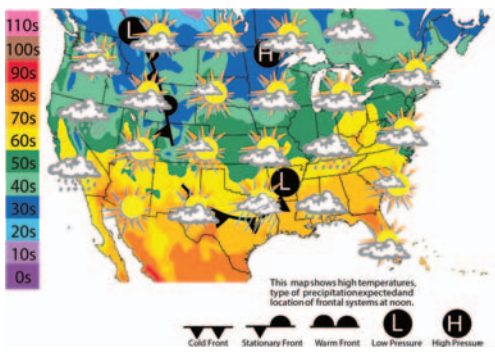
Weather Trivia

How far is the sun from the Earth? ?

Answer: 93 million miles.

National Weather Map

Forecast map for April 4, 2020



For latest weather updates: **www.UpdatedWx.com/HP**

Lake Michigan

Today, NNW wind 10 to 13 kt. Showers likely. Waves 2 to 4 ft. Water temperature 36 degrees. Tonight, N wind 10 to 12 kt. A chance of showers. Waves 3 to 4 ft.

Michigan Forecast

Upper Peninsula

Today, skies will be mostly cloudy to cloudy with widespread showers, highs in the 30s and 40s. West southwest wind 3 to 9 mph. Expect partly cloudy skies Sunday with highs in the 40s. West wind 7 mph.

Lower Peninsula

Today, skies will be mostly cloudy with widespread showers, highs in the 40s and 50s. West wind 10 to 14 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies Sunday with scattered showers, highs in the 40s and 50s. South southeast wind 5 to 9 mph.

Jeff Chiu / AP

Nightbird Restaurant general manager Ron Boyd, from left, pastry chef Hope Waggoner, chef and owner Kim Alter and sous chef Bailey Walton pack dinner boxes into Alter's car that were delivered to hospital workers in San Francisco on March 27.

Feeding the front lines, one duck confit at a time

By JOCELYN GECKER
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — On a break from the front lines, nurse practitioner Gabe Westhemier tucked into a plate of duck confit, the work of one of the city's celebrity chefs. ("It was wonderful.")

Meanwhile, at another San Francisco emergency room, nurse Liz Sanderson still savors a sea salt caramel bread pudding from another posh eatery. ("It was possibly the best thing I have ever eaten.")

The best of foods is being sampled in the worst of times by the most besieged of heroes – all thanks to a group of San Francisco friends who had the idea of helping both local restaurants that need customers, and health care workers who need nourishment during their long, stressful shifts.

They sought donations and started small, with one restaurant and one hospital. Two weeks later, 42 restaurants – among them some of the city's finest – are churning out hundreds of meals a day to feed clinicians in emergency rooms and ICUs at San Francisco's six biggest hospitals.

They have so far raised over $350,000 and have delivered about 5,000 meals, with funding for thousands more. And a newly formed network, aptly named Frontline Foods, has linked up with similar projects in more than a dozen cities. It's also in touch with groups like Help Feed the Frontline LA to the south, to ensure they don't double deliver to the same hospital.

The original idea was born March 12 in a text message exchange between entrepreneur Frank Barbieri and his friend Sydney Gressel, an emergency room nurse at UCSF Medical Center at Mission Bay.

Barbieri knew Gressel was working double shifts in the battle against COVID-19, and texted: "What can I do to help?"

"I suggested he could buy us dinner," Gressel said. "He took it to the next level."

Ryan Sarver, a tech-savvy venture capitalist, tapped contacts in the restaurant world and helped solicit donations, initially for $1,000 that would fund 50 meals for health care workers priced at $20 each. Now smaller donations can be made. The money goes straight to the restaurants.

"We tell them you've got $20 to spend and we need a well-balanced, healthy meal – a starch, protein and vegetable – that is going to sustain these people," said Sarver.

That $20 has to cover the cost of food and delivery, but many chefs have been personally delivering their own food, after spending the day cooking and packing it into hundreds of individual boxes.

Chef Kim Alter, who usually charges about $150 for a meal at Nightbird, her acclaimed San Francisco restaurant, has been donning mask and gloves – in the kitchen and when she pulls her car up to hospitals to deliver her meals.

"People are afraid of going to a hospital. I feel like it's my responsibility to do it," said Alter.

Nightbird, known for its 10-course tasting menus, doesn't do take-out so effectively lost all business when San Francisco went into a lockdown. Alter says now she can keep her staff employed.

"We try to make everything beautiful," she said. One of her early meals included flowers and microgreens still in her restaurant's refrigerator, so "their salads had $100 worth of flowers on it."

That the meals are appreciated is an understatement.

"It puts a smile on my face for sure," said nurse Sanderson, "and it feels like everyone is supporting us. It makes me want to work even harder."

ESSENTIAL

From page A1

Lowe's had not given details on the date of the death or the cleaning late Thursday.

Other Lowe's stores remain open in cities such as Allen Park, Madison Heights, Clinton Township and Sterling Heights. The retailer said that to increase safety at its stores, it is installing signs and floor markers to reinforce social distancing, enhancing store cleaning efforts and putting up plexiglass shields at cash registers.

Rival retailer Home Depot said Wednesday it would close its stores early at 6 p.m. daily to allow more time for cleaning, limit the number of customers in the store and abandon promotions that would drive traffic to its stores.

The only option for some

While the death of a Lowe's employee brings up concerns over whether home improvement stores should remain open, in certain communities across the state, retailers like these may be the most accessible place for residents to purchase cleaning products and other essential supplies, said Meegan Holland, spokesperson for the Michigan Retailers Association, a group that represents more than 5,000 businesses in the state.

But some cities and residents don't think the safety measures taken by Lowe's, Home Depot and others go far enough.

Social media posts from consumers across the country and in Michigan complain of packed parking lots at home improvement stores, and shoppers not observing social distancing guidelines. They say customers are making returns, buying paint and leisurely browsing.

Enforcing social distancing

Sterling Heights Fire Marshal Allen said he was in disbelief when he watched a customer walk out of Lowe's last Friday with a lawn mower and realized business at the store was going on as usual.

He said he visited a Lowe's and Home Depot in Sterling Heights and told them they had to do more.

"I came out point blank and said, 'Do you want me to post a police officer here?" he said.

Allen said he asked Lowe's to close its garden center and install more signage about observing social distancing. In response, Lowe's closed off the entrance to the garden center, although shoppers were still able to enter once they were in the store.

Michigan Retailers Association's Holland said the responsibility should not be on store employees to determine which home projects are for essential repairs or not. She said the same rules for visiting grocery stores applies to home improvement and hardware stores.

"People are used to going to the grocery stores as a leisure-time activity," she said. "This is not a leisurely outing. You need to know what you want, and what you touch, you buy."

WHIRLPOOL

From page A1

Whirlpool joined several other companies in withdrawing its 2020 earnings guidance, citing "unprecedented uncertainty" and concerns over disruptions related to coronavirus.

The company said in a March 24 statement that it expects demand and production disruptions to act as a drag on its 2020 financial performance.

Whirlpool stated the effects of the virus could exceed $25 million to $40 million earnings, before interest and taxes, in the first quarter. The appliance maker is expected to provide more information on the global impact of COVID-19 at its next earnings call, for May 1.

Contact: twittkowski@TheHP.com, 932-0358, Twitter: @Tony Wittkowski

OFFICER

From page A1

just to be on the safe side.

The officer's name was not released.

Communications Manager Gillian Conrad with the Berrien County Health Department said this is the only officer in the county who has tested positive for the virus. But she added that anyone could potentially be infected, since about 25 percent of people with the virus have no symptoms.

Neubecker said his officers are handling as many calls as possible over the phone to reduce their possible exposure to the virus. He said officers wear face masks, gloves and shields when they are out in the public to help stop the possible spread.

He estimated that crime has dropped 30 percent since Gov. Gretchen Whitmer ordered that all people stay home, except for essential services, on March 24.

Beach concerns

Neubecker said he's worried about people wanting to congregate on the beaches this weekend since temperatures are anticipated to be on the warm side.

"Stay away from the beaches," he said. "We don't want tons of people at the beaches."

He said people walking along the beach staying at least 6 feet away from other people is allowed.

In addition, he said people will not be allowed to have garage sales until the crisis is over.

"Our city isn't going to issue any garage sale permits so in the city, they won't be able to do it," he said.

Anyone holding a garage sale without a permit will be shut down, he said.

"It falls under the non-essential business category," he said.

Contact: lwrege@TheHP.com, 932-0361, Twitter: @HPWrege

hp LOCAL & STATE

Local housing sales drop prior to pandemic

Prices continue to increase during inventory shortage

By TONY WITTKOWSKI
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — After a great start to 2020, the Southwest Michigan housing market took a step back in February.

January 2020 produced higher sales and lower prices when compared to January 2019. By the end of February, the opposite happened.

Alan Jeffries, association executive for the Southwestern Michigan Association of Realtors, said the number of house sales dropped significantly and selling prices set new record prices when compared to February 2019.

"The number of houses sold in February dropped to 181 from 235, for a 23 percent decrease," Jeffries said. "Year-to-date, February fell 10 percent over February 2019. In the year-over-year comparison back to 2006, February 2019 remains the highest number of sales overall."

Jeffries said selling prices jumped by double digits this February compared to a year ago.

The average selling price in February 2020 was $222,938, compared to $199,433 in February 2019 – a 12 percent increase.

The average selling price and year-to-date average selling price set new record prices for February in the year-over-year comparison.

The median selling price in February 2020 soared by 30 percent to $182,500, from $140,000 in February 2019. The median selling price also set new record prices for February in the year-over-year comparison.

With fewer houses sold, the total dollar volume was down 14 percent in February 2020. However, with January's input, the total year-to-date dollar volume was up 12 percent.

The inventory of houses for sale dropped 2 percent from February 2019 (1,201 vs. 1,229).

This level gave the market a 4.9-month supply of houses for buyers. For comparison, in February 2009, there were 3,099 houses for sale.

Locally, the mortgage rate was 3.43 in February, down from 3.58 in January. Last year in February, the rate was 4.57.

Nationally, the Freddie Mac mortgage rate in February was 3.45 for a 30-year conventional mortgage – down from 3.51 in January.

Across the country

According to the National Association of Realtors, existing-home sales climbed substantially in February after a slight decline in January.

Of the four major regions, only the Northeast reported a drop in sales, while other areas saw increases, including sizable sales gains in the West.

See **HOUSING**, page B2

Don Campbell / HP staff

Limited traffic flows in both directions along I-94 near Coloma this week. Highway travel has been significantly reduced since the statewide stay-at-home order was signed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, to limit spread of the coronavirus.

Traffic drops dramatically across state

Travel on roads down 50 percent

By LOUISE WREGE
HP Staff Writer

The governor's order to residents last week to stay at home has had a huge impact on the amount of traffic on the roads.

Michigan has seen a 50 percent or more reduction in travel when compared to the same date last year, said Nick Schirripa, spokesperson with the Michigan Department of Transportation.

He said there are often small variances from year to year, usually connected to the weather.

"If you have a really bad snow storm, you might see a 10 to 12 percent traffic variance depending on the location," he said. "... But seeing a 50 percent reduction from one year to the next is huge. It's unheard of. I think we can attribute that to the governor's stay home, stay safe order."

Information on daily traffic volume trends can be found at www.ms2soft.com/traffic-dashboard. The traffic count is based on traffic sensors and smart traffic signals.

Schirripa said other models that show how mobile a state's population is are based on anonymous cell phone data.

MS2 is an Ann Arbor company that provides software development and transportation data management services to transportation agencies throughout North America.

The company states on its website that it launched the traffic dashboard to support national efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. Traffic in about half of the states, including Michigan, can be looked at on the site.

An analysis of several states shows that traffic in Michigan is down more than many other states.

On April 1, traffic flow was down in Michigan by 47.9 percent, while the national average was down 38.5 percent. Other states were Florida (-31.2), Illinois (-38.7), Ohio (-39.4), Louisiana (-28.7). Texas did not have a value listed for April 1.

On March 29, the national average for traffic flow was down 42.9 percent from the previous year, compared to the states: Michigan (-60.9), Florida (-44.3), Illinois (-48.6), Ohio (-48.3), Louisiana (-36.2) and Texas (-41.3).

On March 25, the day after Michigan's stay at home order went into effect, the national average was down 32.7 percent, compared to the states: Michigan (-47.5), Florida (-29.9), Illinois (-37.5), Ohio (-41.5), Louisiana (-30.1) and Texas (-14.4).

Michigan's traffic flow started dropping on March 12 and dropped by double digits for the first time on March 14, to 15.8 percent.

The national traffic flow was down an average of 12.3 percent on March 15, compared to the states: Michigan (-13.6), Florida (-8.8), Illinois (-13.6), Ohio (-17.6), and Texas (-3.0). Louisiana saw an increase of 3.4 percent on March 15.

Health experts believe that the less people travel, the slower the virus will be transmitted to other people, thus flattening the curve so the nation's hospitals aren't overwhelmed with patients.

Contact: lwrege@TheHP.com, 932-0361, Twitter: @HPWrege

Hagar Twp. calls for property tax cut

Residents to vote on proposal in August

By ALEXANDRA NEWMAN
HP Staff Writer

RIVERSIDE — Hagar Township residents will see a proposal on their Aug. 4 ballots to lower taxes.

The Hagar Township Board of Trustees approved a recommendation this week from Township Supervisor Izzy DiMaggio that would make a 50 percent property tax cut in the fire vehicle fund.

"A 10-year millage expires this year and we have too much money in this fund that is not needed for vehicle replacement," DiMaggio said.

The millage would go from .5 mills to .25 mills, if approved.

DiMaggio said he completed an analysis of projected revenues and the projected vehicle replacement costs, and the tax cut will still leave a sufficient balance after 10 years.

"We are not in the business to make money," he said. "This is the first opportunity in 10 years to reduce this millage."

In addition to the tax cut on the August ballot, residents will also see a request to recapture the 1 mill allocated general fund millage, reduced by the Headlee Amendment.

In other business, the township board set its annual budget public hearing

See **TAX CUT**, page B2

Small business grants heading for state approval

By HP STAFF

Help is on the way for businesses struggling through the coronavirus pandemic.

Southwest Michigan First announced Friday that 144 grant recipients from Southwest Michigan are getting allocations as part of the state's Michigan Small Business Relief program.

Chief among applicants have been businesses facing drastic reductions in cash flow and the continued support of their workforce due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Grants can be used by recipients for working capital to support payroll expenses, rent, mortgage payments, utility expenses or other similar expenses that occur in the ordinary course of business.

The funding is made possible by the Michigan Economic Development Corp. releasing $10 million in small business grants from the Michigan Strategic Fund, to regional economic development agencies.

The Southwest Michigan region received $800,000 to be administered among businesses in Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Van Buren counties. Funding allocations were based on the concentration of eligible small businesses within each county.

The average grant award was $5,555.

"The Michigan Small Business Relief Program is one of the ways we are leveraging every resource available to provide relief in the face of negative impacts COVID-19 is having on businesses across the state," said Josh Hundt, chief business development officer and executive vice president at the MEDC.

To administer the funds, Southwest Michigan First and representatives from Cornerstone Alliance, Battle Creek Unlimited, Marshall Area Economic Development Alliance, Albion Economic Development Corp., Market Van Buren and the city of Coldwater collected completed applications.

"We're grateful for the dollars allocated by the Michigan Strategic Fund and the

See **GRANTS**, page B2

Ask a Cop

LT. JULIE FLICK
Berrien County Sheriff's Department

Meeting up for walks is OK, if precautions are taken

I have a question related to the governor's stay-at-home order. I have a friend that I walk with, and we usually meet at a park or a trail to walk. I know it's OK to be outdoors walking, but my question is: Is it OK for us each to drive to the location to meet up for our walk? (I know we're only supposed to drive for essential reasons.) We still want to meet up for our walks, but we don't want to get ticketed for driving to the location.

Lisa, from St. Joseph

Hi Lisa, thank you for your question. Yes you may drive your car to a park or other area for walking or exercise. However, long distance travel is discouraged. The information I will provide is current as of March 29. As information around this outbreak is changing rapidly you are encouraged to visit Michigan.gov/Coronavirus, or CDC.gov/Coronavirus for the latest updates. Important information can also be found at your local county health department website.

There are several things to know before heading out. If you do not live with the person you are walking with, you must remain at least six feet apart while exercising. Go out only if you are feeling healthy. If the parking lot of your destination is full, or there are already several people in the area, find another place to go.

In order to keep parks and recreation areas open we must all practice good social distancing behaviors. Also please be aware that the state of Michigan, through the Department of Natural Resources, has closed several amenities in state parks such as bathrooms, concession stands and playground equipment. Local municipalities have done the same, so please check any parks for closure before entering.

Make sure each person brings their own water to drink, and hand sanitizer is a good thing to have when washing your hands in a sink is not possible.

All that said, exercise is a great way to stay healthy and combat stress and is encouraged. Other ways to stay healthy are proper eating habits and washing your hands in warm water for 20 seconds often throughout the day.

Send in your questions about the law; get an answer from those who enforce it. Email your question to AskACop@TheHP.com and it may be featured in an article.

Girls on the Run cancels season, 5K

By HP STAFF

The board and staff of Girls on the Run Southwest Michigan has canceled the Spring 2020 season and celebration Girls on the Run 5K, according to a news release.

Girls on the Run Southwest Michigan was poised to serve 759 girls in 2020, hosting 42 teams in Berrien, Cass, Van Buren, and St. Joseph counties. This season also marked the significant new 5K location – Southwestern Michigan College – where teams from four counties could run together. As a nonprofit organization, the cancellation of the season and celebration 5K events presents significant a funding challenge, the release noted.

"We are disappointed to have to make this decision, but our core values guide us to recognize our power and responsibility to be intentional in our decision-making, including nurturing our physical and emotional health," said Heather Cole, chairwoman of the board. "As a local nonprofit that relies on program fees to support our operations, this pandemic will have a devastating effect on our ability to continue to serve girls in Southwest Michigan, and we are turning to the community for support so we can promise girls a season in the future. Our board and staff are working closely together to weather this storm, and to continue to provide support for our participants and their families while they are also living through this difficult situation, and we thank you for keeping our girls in mind."

With challenging times ahead, Girls on the Run Southwest Michigan encourages the community to donate at www.gotrswmi.org/donate, allowing them to remain operational as they explore summer and fall programming, and look forward to an amazing 2021.

More information can be found on the organization's website, www.gotrswmi.org, or on Facebook and Instagram.

IN BRIEF

Bridge work scheduled on I-196

SOUTH HAVEN — Work is expected to begin Monday to repair an Interstate 196 bridge in Van Buren County.

The bridge spans the Van Buren Trail and is located just south of the 16th mile marker.

Work includes an epoxy overlay, bridge railing replacement, substructure patching, guardrail replacement and repaving of the approaches leading to the bridge, according to Nick Schirripa, communications officer for the Michigan Department of Transportation.

The repairs, he said, are needed to extend the service life of the bridge.

While work takes place, one lane on each of the north and southbound lanes will be closed. The project is scheduled to be completed Aug. 15.

GRANTS

From page B1

positive impact those funds will have on keeping Berrien County businesses open, and people employed," said Rob Cleveland, president of Cornerstone Alliance. "These dollars will have an immediate impact on the health of the businesses who have received grants and loans. The MEDC funds also ease the burden on the companies and financial institutions, allowing them both to allocate resources elsewhere."

TAX CUT

From page B1

for 6 p.m. April 13. The virtual meeting can be accessed at https://us04web.zoom.us/j/976608045, or by calling 888-475-4499. The meeting ID is 976 608 045.

DiMaggio said some highlights of the 2020-2021 budget include that the township remains debt free and that the general fund balance of $2.3 million provides about two years of funds on hand.

The budget recommends improving over seven miles of township roads at a cost of about $170,000. The roads set for improvement are Pier, Fikes, Central, Maple Lane and Bundy Road.

The parks department budget, of $113,000, has funds for new surveillance and security equipment, landscaping, new signage and general maintenance.

In addition, DiMaggio said, the township's share of a new pumper truck for the North Berrien Fire and Rescue Department is about $281,000 and will be paid over two budgets.

Contact: anewman@TheHP.com, 932-0357, Twitter: @HPANewman

HOUSING

From page B1

Total existing-home sales rose 6.5 percent from January to a seasonally-adjusted annual rate of 5.7 million in February. For the eighth straight month, overall sales increased year-over-year, up 7.2 percent from a year ago.

"February's sales of over 5 million homes were the strongest since February 2007," said Lawrence Yun, NAR's chief economist. "I would attribute that to the incredibly low mortgage rates and the steady release of a sizable pent-up housing demand that was built over recent years."

Yun noted that February's home sales were encouraging, but not reflective of the current turmoil in the stock market or the significant hit the economy will take because of the coronavirus and corresponding social quarantines.

"These figures show that housing was on a positive trajectory, but the coronavirus has undoubtedly slowed buyer traffic," Yun said. "It is difficult to predict what short-term effects the pandemic will have on future sales."

Compared to the prior month, February sales increased in the Midwest, the South and the West. Median home prices in all regions increased from a year ago, with the Northeast and South regions showing the strongest price gains.

Existing-home sales increased 0.8 percent in the Midwest to an annual rate of 1.29 million, up 4 percent from a year ago.

"For the past couple of months, we have seen the number of buyers grow as more people enter the market," Yun said. "Once the social-distancing and quarantine measures are relaxed, we should see this temporary pause evaporate, and will have potential buyers return with the same enthusiasm."

While offering a definitive forecast is extremely difficult in light of the national emergency, Yun said home prices will hold.

"Unlike the stock market, home prices are not expected to drop because of the ongoing housing shortage and due to homes getting delisted during this time of crisis," he said.

Nationally, the total housing inventory at the end of February totaled 1.47 million units, up 5 percent from January, but down 9.8 percent from one year ago.

Unsold inventory sits at a 3.1-month supply at the current sales pace, equal to the supply recorded in January and down from the 3.6-month figure recorded in February 2019.

Contact: twittkowski@TheHP.com, 932-0358, Twitter: @TonyWittkowski

Whitmer tells people with virus symptoms to stay home

By DAVID EGGERT, MIKE HOUSEHOLDER and COREY WILLIAMS
Associated Press

LANSING — Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said Friday that people with principal symptoms of the disease caused by the coronavirus should stay home for a minimum of three days after the symptoms fade.

Her order came hours before the state that has been hit particularly hard by COVID-19 reported nearly 2,000 new infections – the largest single-day increase – and 62 additional deaths. Michigan had more than 12,700 confirmed cases and 479 deaths as of Friday.

The latest

Whitmer's order applies to all residents who test positive or have at least a key symptom: fever, nagging cough or shortness of breath. They can leave for medical care, outdoor exercise, food and other life-sustaining supplies as long as they wear a mask or face covering.

People should stay home until three days after their symptoms go away and until seven days since they first appeared. Others who have had close contact with infected individuals or those displaying symptoms should stay home for a longer period.

The order prohibits employers from retaliating against workers if they or one of their close contacts have the disease or symptoms.

Detroit-area cases

Most of the confirmed COVID-19 cases continue to be in the Detroit area, with 80 percent in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. The city had 3,550 cases and 117 deaths.

Detroit is about 80 percent black. African Americans, who make up 14 percent of the state population, make up 35 percent of cases statewide and 40 percent of deaths. The race in 34 percent of cases and 28 percent of deaths is listed as unknown.

Mayor Mike Duggan said the higher death rate among blacks is due to health care disparities between whites and African Americans. Starting Monday, any Detroiter who needs a ride to a testing site at the old state fairgrounds can get one for $2 round trip.

Staff retooled equipment to heat the masks so it kills viruses and bacteria. The masks then are sealed in individual bags and left to further decontaminate for three days. A test confirmed the process was successful.

"The early data on it says you can do it 20 times, perhaps more, but we're going to start with that," Beauchamp said.

Small businesses

State officials and business leaders launched a website to encourage and help small businesses to apply for the federal $349 billion Paycheck Protection Program, which began Friday. It will give low-interest loans that will be fully or partially forgiven if businesses show the money was used to retain or rehire employees and pay expenses such as rent or utilities through June 30.

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hp BUSINESS

Luiz C. Ribeiro / New York Daily News / TNS

Broad Street near the New York Stock Exchange is mostly devoid of commuters and tourists early Wednesday morning due to the coronavirus pandemic.

A quick rebound from virus? Economists have reason to doubt it

By BEN HOLLAND
Bloomberg News

The coronavirus is guaranteed to throw the world into recession, but economists are becoming less convinced about the potential for a strong snapback in growth.

The best case for forecasters is that a recovery, perhaps even a vigorous one, gets under way in the second half of 2020. But as the pandemic spreads through Europe and the Americas, and the wide range of knock-on effects comes into clearer view, caveats to that call are piling up.

Underlying all of them is the simple fact that economic outcomes hinge on something that's beyond the professional competence of most economists to forecast: the trajectory of the disease itself.

"We have no certainty the virus will be gone by the end of the second quarter," said Nobel prizewinner Joseph Stiglitz, a professor at Columbia University in New York. If it "lasts through the summer, then all the effects will be amplified."

Beyond that, there is an array of questions for economists to grapple with – and those doubts increasingly undermine projections for what's known as a "V-shaped recovery," in which lost output is quickly restored.

Rather than sounding a decisive "all clear," health authorities seem likely to advocate a gradual return to normal working life, so the behavior known as "social distancing" may stick around.

Along with financial blows sustained during the downturn, that is likely to dampen spending on travel or spending at shops or restaurants – assuming those businesses can stay afloat in the first place.

"It takes more time to get 'back to play' than to 'get back to work'," said Catherine Mann, chief economist at Citigroup Inc. This "underpins concerns for the trajectory for services-dependent advanced economies in the second half of 2020," she said.

Consumer caution is already evident in China, even though authorities say it's safe to go back into the marketplace, and it could happen elsewhere.

That's why Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, likens his forecast to a "Nike swoosh" rather than a V- or U-shaped rebound. He says U.S. output alone could plunge at an annualized pace of as much as 25 percent in the second quarter, bounce back by up to 15 percent in the third, then stall in the fourth with the economy "basically limping along."

Much will depend on how fast businesses bring back jobs. The International Labor Organization warns 25 million positions may be shed, and Goldman Sachs Group Inc. said on Tuesday it expected U.S. unemployment to soar to 15 percent.

Mckinsey & Co. notes one quarter of U.S. households already live from paycheck to paycheck, and that 40 percent of Americans are unable to cover an unexpected expense of $400 without borrowing.

Stiglitz worries about what he calls "financial gridlock" in which households and companies can't pay bills, forcing those they owe to into bankruptcy and default as well and so on.

That threat could be heightened by the scale of borrowing in recent years. The Institute of International Finance estimates household debt – as a share of output – is at record levels in several economies.

Corporate borrowing has also hit a high in countries including France and the U.S. Those debts along with the collapse in earnings and slide in equities may limit the ability of companies to reboot after the crisis, with some also likely to be hurt by the collapse in oil prices.

"In any recovery, firms may need to sell shares or slash (capital expenditures) to reduce debt or repay government assistance," said Charles Dumas of TS Lombard.

Keen to avoid an extended recession, policymakers have been taking emergency measures on a scale that likely exceeds even the response to the 2008 financial crisis. They're extending credit lifelines to business, paying cash to households, and helping companies cover their wage bills so they don't have to fire workers. Central banks have slashed interest rates and started new asset-purchase programs.

The strongest argument for a rapid recovery is what economists call "pent-up demand" – a label that applies quite literally in the current crisis.

Economies shuddered to a halt when people were forced to hunker down at home, so there should be a corresponding upswing when they're allowed out again – especially with governments everywhere injecting cash to speed the process.

"Assuming the outbreak peaks by April/May, this will likely set the stage for a recovery in the second half of 2020," said Chetan Ahya, chief economist at Morgan Stanley.

He predicts the global economy will contract 2.3 percent on an annualized basis in the first half of the year before growing 1.5 percent in the second half. Even that scenario means the U.S. and euro area won't regain their pre-crisis levels of output until the third quarter of 2021.

At JPMorgan Chase & Co., economists led by Bruce Kasman are citing emerging markets as another source of concern. They're being pinched by gains in the dollar and the outflow of foreign-held capital, pushing up local borrowing costs.

The most encouraging virus news for economists at the moment comes from Asia, which suffered the first outbreaks but appears to have gotten them under a degree of control.

China is cranking back into action, with numbers released on Tuesday showing manufacturing activity rebounded strongly in March.

Demand in the domestic market is reviving, as lockdowns ease and consumers return to the shops or showrooms. Auto sales, for example, have been ticking higher for weeks, though they're still down some 40 percent from last year's level.

International orders, though, may take longer to recover. Because other economies got hit later by the virus, they're seeing a slump in demand for imports just as China's export engine is revving up again. That feedback loop may undermine other recoveries, too.

And in China, as in other countries, economics will continue to depend on epidemiology for some time to come. Even as overall progress is made toward containing the coronavirus and developing a vaccine, there's no guarantee that the movement will be in one direction.

Instead there could be "aftershocks following the initial outbreak, with restrictions being re-imposed and lifted so as to manage the capacity of the health care system to cope," said Keith Wade, chief economist at Schroder Investment Management. "In economic terms, this would lead to a double-dip recession."

History also suggests reason to worry. A just-published study of pandemics and armed conflicts found such shocks typically weigh on wages and investment for years to come.

BUSINESS PEOPLE

Wightman adds two to administration team

BENTON HARBOR — Wightman added two new employees to its administrative staff.

Ashley Sonnevil of Paw Paw joined Wightman as a human resources generalist based in the Kalamazoo office. She has six years of human resources experience focused on compliance, policy and procedure design, data analysis, and HRIS technologies.

Sonnevil holds a bachelor of science degree in health care administration from Ferris State University.

Catherine West of Coloma was hired as an administrative assistant at the Benton Harbor office. She has over 20 years of administrative experience including business development, scheduling and event planning, and customer service.

UFCU names market vice president

ST. JOSEPH — United Federal Credit Union named Lisa Frohnapfel as market vice president in Michigan.

She brings 27 years of financial management experience to the team.

In her new role with United, Frohnapfel will lead the Michigan team in driving sales, service and business development initiatives, and will lead the United Investment Planning program.

She holds a master of science degree with leadership and change management focus from Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids and a bachelor of science degree in business management and leadership from Davenport University.

Alex Brandon / AP

Jovita Carranza, administrator of the Small Business Administration, speaks about the coronavirus in the James Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House in Washington on Thursday, as Vice President Mike Pence, President Donald Trump listen.

Small business relief program launches, hits snags

By KEN SWEET, JOYCE M. ROSENBERG and RYAN J. FOLEY
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The federal government's $349 billion relief program for small businesses got off to a rocky start Friday as hundreds of thousands tried to apply for desperately needed loans.

Many small business owners ran into bureaucratic or technological road blocks. Some even discovered their bank wasn't yet prepared to accept applications, and when they tried another bank were told that only established customers were being accepted. A major trade group for small businesses complained that too many of its members were "shut out" from getting loans.

Still, some did succeed in at least getting the process started. Bank of America alone said 75,000 small businesses had applied for $7 billion of loans. Once the bank handles the application, it goes to the Small Business Administration, which said Friday afternoon that it had approved more than 12,460 loans valued at $3.9 billion. But it was unclear how much if any money had actually been sent to the businesses.

The Paycheck Protection Program was put in place to help small businesses retain workers and pay bills during the coronavirus pandemic and is part of the $2.2 trillion economic package passed by Congress just last week. Because of the tight timeline, some banks were ready to start accepting loans while other banks, large and small, complained they hadn't received the details of the program from the Treasury soon enough to be ready for the launch Friday morning.

The program is billed as a way to help local businesses that often form the fabric of communities stay afloat. It will give businesses low-interest loans of about 2.5 times their average monthly payroll. The loans will be fully or partially forgiven if businesses show that the money was used to retain or rehire employees and pay some overhead expenses through June 30.

The benefits of having a business mentor

Embracing the help of a SCORE business mentor offers many advantages to entrepreneurs.

Whether you're in the early stages of exploring a business idea or already running an established business, a mentor can provide valuable guidance, serve as an objective sounding board for listening to and evaluating new ideas, and motivate you to be more accountable.

With a SCORE mentor, you benefit from expertise and experience that can help you launch and/or grow your business.

Before you begin working with a mentor, consider what you can do to get the most fulfillment from your mentor relationship.

Don't be afraid to ask questions

Come prepared with a list of questions and issues you're facing to every meeting with your SCORE mentor. Mentors are there to answer even what seem to be the silliest questions. They don't judge you by what you know or don't know. They are there to develop your understanding and awareness. And if they personally don't know the answer to a particular question, they can tap into the expertise of other SCORE mentors within their chapter or nationally.

SCORE™

This column is provided by SCORE, an organization dedicated to helping small businesses start, grow and succeed. The local SCORE chapter provide free and confidential mentoring in management, accounting, marketing and business plan preparation.

Focus

When you talk with your mentor, be entirely present and ready to focus on your business issues. Unless you need them for research during your meeting, put your digital devices away so they won't distract you from your conversation.

Have realistic expectations

Your mentor is there to advise you, not to do the work for you. You will gain insight and direction from a mentor, but you will still have to work hard. Starting and running a small business requires effort – no exceptions.

Follow through

Do your homework! You should walk away from every meeting with your mentor with next steps (a.k.a. action items). Make sure you tackle what you agreed to do between meetings. If you slack off and don't take the initiative to complete the tasks necessary to move forward, you won't be able to take full advantage of your time together.

Keep an open mind

You and your mentor may not always see eye to eye on certain ideas or approaches. Rather than instantly discarding suggestions that don't align with your initial thoughts, consider your mentor's frame of reference and experience in working with other SCORE mentees who faced similar challenges. The right answer may not always be what you want to hear, so it's important to listen with an objective ear.

Keep the lines of communication open

When first starting your business, you will probably find you need to meet with your mentor on a relatively frequent basis (possibly every week). As time goes by, your need to consult your mentor may ebb and flow depending on the nature of the competition you're facing, industry changes, or opportunities you want to pursue.

Even when you don't feel you need to meet very often, keep your mentor up to date on what's happening in your business via email or a periodic phone call. That way, your mentor will be informed and better equipped to provide guidance when you do face a new challenge.

How to decide which bills can wait

More than 6.6 million people.

That's how many Americans applied for unemployment in the week ending March 28 – an all-time high. This is the latest aftershock of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) provided super-sized unemployment benefits – even for workers not traditionally covered by unemployment insurance. But some states are reporting it's going to take time to process their claims.

Even before the outbreak, 59 percent of credit card holders were carrying a balance, according to a recent survey by CreditCards.com. Of those who didn't pay off their credit card debt every month, 25 percent had been falling behind for at least three years. Another 15 percent had carried debt for more than five years.

Card holders most often used plastic to pay for medical expenses or car repairs, the CreditCards.com survey found.

People on the brink have been shoved over the edge of financial stability by COVID-19. Tough decisions on what gets paid when have become even more critical.

If there's not enough money coming in, you have to start taking care of your bills the same way medical staff handle an emergency room slammed with patients. A standard practice is to determine who needs to be seen first, a method called triage. This system is used when the demand for treatment is greater than the staff can handle.

"Before the coronavirus impact, I worked in a nail salon," said Jennifer from Troy, Alabama, in an email. "My work closed. I don't have enough money to pay my car loan and phone bill. I'm too stressed."

If you've lost your job or you're facing a long furlough,

Michelle Singletary

triage your payments. Some creditors are just going to have to wait.

In "Surviving Debt: Expert Advice for Getting Out of Financial Trouble," a team of 20 experts from the National Consumer Law Center (NCLC) walk the reader through how to rank debts and expenses. The 2020-updated edition is the Color of Money Book Club pick for this month.

During the pandemic crisis, NCLC is offering free digital access to the book, which retails for $20. You can download, print or email it at nclc.org/readsurvivingdebt. If you want a hard copy, you'll have to pay the retail price, but shipping is free.

The book starts with six steps to surviving debt. The first step is prioritizing debts whose non-payment will immediately harm your family.

High priority: Rent, mortgage, auto loan, utilities and child support.

Low priority: Credit card and medical debt, student loans and debt owed to friends and family.

People often rationalize that if they can't pay their landlord in full, at least they should keep up with the minimum payment on a credit card.

"This is a bad idea," according to NCLC. "If you don't have enough money to make full payments on high-priority debts, try to negotiate with the creditor to accept lower payments or save the money to be used later to get caught up, to cover the initial costs of moving to a new residence, or to pay for another car if your car is repossessed."

And don't let lower-priority creditors push you to pay what you can't afford, the legal experts note. "A debt collector's job is to convince you to pay its debts first," they write. "Instead, make your own decision as to which debt has the highest priority. The collector contacting you most aggressively is often collecting on a low-priority debt. Do not be persuaded just to get the debt collector off your back."

Concern about your credit rating should not move up a debt's priority. You can fix that damage later. Threats to sue shouldn't elevate a debt to the top of the list until you're actually sued, the experts say.

"Surviving Debt" provides guidance on the most pressing financial concerns, including dealing with a possible eviction.

Although many jurisdictions have placed a moratorium on evictions, some landlords are still pressuring and threatening tenants to pay up or risk immediately being kicked out.

"My rental company told me they would and could lock my door and remove all of my possessions if I cannot pay the rent," Angela from New York wrote.

The legal steps to an eviction vary from state to state. But even if the action can be taken quickly, you always have the right to a court hearing before you're evicted. "Lockouts, utility shut-offs, dumping your possessions on the street, and other eviction-related harassment are illegal in all states, even when you are behind on your rent," the authors point out.

"Surviving Debt" is a guide you're going to want to read as you try to make ends meet during this epic financial storm.

I am hosting an online discussion about "Surviving Debt" at noon Eastern on April 23 at washingtonpost.com/discussions. Two legal experts from NCLC with expertise in debt collection and student loans will join me to take your questions on navigating tough financial situations.

Ask the Fool

Islamic Investing, Explained

Q What is "Islamic investing" all about? — *T.L., Riverside, California*

A Investors who adhere to Islamic tenets are restricted from investing in certain kinds of companies.

Islamic investing avoids companies with alcohol, gambling, pornography or pork businesses. These investors may also avoid companies involved in tobacco, weapons of mass destruction or media, among other industries. ("Socially responsible" non-Islamic investors avoid some of these industries, too.)

Following sharia (Islamic law), investors also respect a prohibition against paying or earning interest. That means avoiding most financial services companies, such as Western-style banks and insurers — and many companies that are carrying significant debt. In some cases, if an investor owns shares in a company that earns interest, that investor might donate a representative sum to charity anonymously, to "cleanse" the portfolio of the interest.

Avoiding debt-heavy companies can make a sharia-compliant portfolio less risky, but that's partly offset by ignoring many industries and concentrating assets in others, potentially resulting in under-diversification. Islamic investing also avoids bonds, annuities and even short-selling stocks, which is seen as gambling. Real estate investments, and other asset-based income-producing investments, are allowed.

There's more to it all, of course, and you can learn more by searching on Google for "Islamic investing."

***

Q Where can I learn about real estate investment trusts (REITs)? — *P.D., Jacksonville, North Carolina*

A REITs are companies that typically own and operate real estate properties such as apartment buildings, malls, medical facilities, industrial sites and so on. Learn more in "The Intelligent REIT Investor: How to Build Wealth With Real Estate Investment Trusts" by Stephanie Krewson-Kelly and R. Brad Thomas (Wiley, $30), or at our **Millionacres.com** sister site.

Want more information about stocks? Send us an email to foolnews@fool.com.

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Fool's School

Don't Neglect Proxy Voting

It can seem like those of us who own only a few dozen (or even a few hundred) shares of a company are powerless to influence it, but that's not the case. Even a single share of common stock makes you a part-owner in a real business, after all, and most shareholders of most stocks get to cast proxy votes each year, often in the spring.

If you receive voting materials from a company in which you're invested, take some time to read through them. Reviewing annual reports, proxy statements and other literature will help keep you better informed about your company and its prospects, as well as warn you of any possible disagreements among company management and large shareholders.

The proxy form that's mailed out to shareholders is essentially an absentee ballot, allowing you to mail in your vote — or cast it online. (If you attend the company's annual meeting, you can vote in person.) Along with the form, you should receive a small booklet that explains the issues up for a vote in more detail. It will usually describe the company's position on the issues and often explains the opposing position, as well. While proxy forms usually include recommendations from company management as to how they would like you to vote your shares, you have no obligation to follow these recommendations. (You can vote for or against board members, too.)

Over the years, many companies have faced proposals from shareholders concerning environmental, social and other matters, such as demands for annual climate impact reports, or more fair compensation for women and minorities. Such proposals frequently fail to get a majority of votes, but many have succeeded even with lesser numbers, such as when McDonald's was persuaded to switch from foam containers to more environmentally friendly ones with just 20% support for the demand.

You can learn much more about proxy voting and initiatives to vote for or against proposals at sites such as **AsYouSow.org**, **ProxyPreview.org**, **Ceres.org**, **GreenAmerica.org** and **CorpGov.net**. Cast your votes, and let your voice be heard.

My Dumbest Investment

Lots of Eggs, One Basket

My first investing move was a very dumb one. Instead of diversifying my investments across many sectors, I diversified in just one sector with many companies. That sector, you ask? Marijuana stocks — in 2019. My initial investment got crushed, down 60%. It was all very discouraging and frightening. — *Matthew H., online*

The Fool Responds: That's a tough first investment. Over the short term, the market can be harsh. However, investments in strong and growing companies that are trading at low or reasonable prices should serve you well over the long run. Putting all your eggs in one basket was risky, as you learned.

In 2019, marijuana-focused companies suffered for multiple reasons. For example, dispensaries were slow to launch in Canada (largely due to licensing issues); prices were high in the U.S. at legal dispensaries (due to steep taxes and costly overhead), driving many consumers to the black market; and many companies were simply not profitable.

The sector's history offers a good lesson in what happens when excited investors jump in before companies have had a chance to establish records of profitability and sound management. Unless you've done a lot of research and understand the industry, the various companies' competitive advantages and the regulatory headwinds and tailwinds, you're gambling more than investing. That said, the cannabis market holds long-term promise, but it may make sense to wait until the smoke clears.

The Motley Fool Take

Take a Bite of This Stock

The stock market's plunge has left many investors reeling, but for those with some cash and a long-term mindset, it's a great opportunity to buy. Consider Apple (Nasdaq: AAPL). While it's likely to see a sales slump due to production challenges and store closures related to the coronavirus, its future is far from bleak.

The iPhone maker has built a formidable business that isn't highly dependent on product sales: services, which can help offset losses that Apple's hardware business takes from the coronavirus crisis. Including revenue from the App Store, Apple Music, Apple Pay, iCloud, AppleCare, Apple TV+ and other services, Apple's services segment recently accounted for about 14% of total revenue and sported a much fatter profit margin.

In Apple's most recent quarter, services revenue increased 17% year-over-year, with record performance in cloud services, music, payments, the App Store and AppleCare. Also impressive is its growth in subscriptions across its own native apps and third-party apps: Apple's paid subscriptions totaled 480 million at the end of its first quarter of fiscal 2020, up 33% year-over-year.

Importantly, this services business is supported by an installed base of 1.5 billion active devices (up 100 million from the year-ago quarter) — and these users will continue to spend money on services amid the coronavirus pandemic. (The Motley Fool owns shares of and has recommended Apple.)

Name That Company

I trace my roots back to 1983, when two guys founded me to sell software to make people's lives easier. My first product's name means to go faster, and another bestselling product's name suggests having the IRS connected to a turbine. Today, based in Mountain View, California, I'm a software giant, with about 50 million customers, around $7 billion in annual revenue and a market value recently near $61 billion. I employ more than 9,000 people in nine countries, and rank high on lists of the best companies to work for. Who am I?

Think you know the answer? We'll announce it in next week's edition.

LAST WEEK'S TRIVIA ANSWER

I trace my roots back to the 1964 founding in Oregon of Blue Ribbon Sports, my precursor, by an accomplished coach and one of his athletes. My first store opened in 1966, and by the early 1970s, I was selling innovative track shoes bearing the name of the Greek goddess of victory. A waffle maker inspired my early soles. Today, I'm a global giant focused on athletic footwear, apparel and more. I rake in more than $40 billion annually, employ more than 70,000 people worldwide and own brands such as Converse, Hurley and Jordan. Who am I? (Answer: Nike)

Want to Invest? Email us at foolnews@fool.com, and we'll send you some tips to start investing. Sorry, we can't provide individual financial advice.

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Don't give your adult kids your house

Adding an adult child to your house deed, or giving them the home outright, might seem like a smart thing to do. It usually isn't.

Transferring your house to your kids while you're alive may avoid probate, the court process that otherwise follows death. But gifting a home also can result in a big, unnecessary tax bill and put your house at risk if your kids get sued or file for bankruptcy. You also could be making a big mistake if you hope it will help keep the house from being consumed by nursing home bills.

There are better ways to transfer a house to your kids, as well as a little-known potential fix that may help even if the giver has since died.

Why you shouldn't gift a house

If you bequeath a house to your kids – which means they get it after your death – they also get what's known as a "step-up in tax basis." All the appreciation that happened while you owned the house is never taxed.

Certified financial planner Kenneth Robinson of Rocky River, Ohio, says last year he advised a client not to let his mom give him her house. The mother paid $16,000 for her home in 1976, while the current market value is close to $200,000. None of that gain would be taxable if the son inherited the house, Robinson told his client.

The mother signed a quit claim to give her son the house anyway and died shortly afterward. That potentially meant a tax bill of about $32,000 for Robinson's client.

Families who realize the mistake in time can undo the damage by gifting the house back to the parent, says Jennifer Sawday, a

Liz Weston

partner at TLD Law in Long Beach, California.

"We do last-minute deeds to get that house back in place when we know someone is dying," Sawday says.

Other reasons not to gift a house

Sometimes people transfer a home to try to qualify for Medicaid, the government program that pays health care and nursing home bills for the indigent. But gifts or transfers made within five years of applying for Medicaid can lead to a penalty period, when seniors are disqualified from receiving benefits.

Transferring your home to someone else also can expose you to their financial problems. Their creditors could file liens on your home and, depending on state law, get some or most of its value. In a divorce, the house could become an asset that must be divided.

A potential 'Hail Mary' fix

Robinson consulted a certified public accountant and an estate planning attorney. Both said what Robinson feared was true: The client was stuck paying taxes on the $184,000 gain in value since his mother bought the property.

"They were as discouraged as I was," Robinson says.

But then Robinson hired a tax research firm and learned of a workaround. Section 2036 of the Internal Revenue Code says that if the mother retained a "life interest" in the property, which includes the right to continue living there, the home would remain in her estate rather than be considered a completed gift.

"Many people do not know about this and are therefore losing out on the step-up and the lower taxes they would be entitled to," says Michael Eisenberg, CPA financial planner with the American Institute of CPAs' Financial Literacy Commission.

There are specific rules for what constitutes a life interest, including the power to determine what happens to the property and liability for its bills. To ensure that outcome, the son, as executor of his mother's estate, filed a gift tax return on her behalf to show that he was given a "remainder interest," or the right to inherit when his mother's life interest expired at her death, Robinson says.

There are better ways to transfer a house

There are other ways around probate. Many states and the District of Columbia allow "transfer on death" deeds that allow people to leave their beneficiaries their houses without having to go through probate. Another option is a living trust, which typically costs $1,500 to $3,000 to set up but can ensure all a person's assets avoid probate.

And probate in many states is nothing to fear. Most states have simplified probate procedures for smaller estates. Only in a few, such as California and Florida, is probate so expensive and time-consuming that most people should try to avoid it.

"We see avoidance of probate as a big issue in people's minds, sometimes bigger than it has to be," Robinson says.

Liz Weston is a columnist at NerdWallet, a certified financial planner and author of "Your Credit Score." Email: lweston@nerdwallet.com. Twitter: @lizweston.

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Earth Day and the power of unity

As times get harder, the continuing cooperation and sense of unity across the country to fight and contain COVID-19 is impressive. It inspires additional thinking.

Lynn Kellogg
Generations

We've seemed such a divided nation recently. The power of working together during crisis restores faith in our ability to muster collective action. Just in time.

National unity had profound and lasting impact 50 years ago. April 22 is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.

By modern standards, one might roll their eyes as to why Earth Day would be considered noticeably significant. Recent Earth Days haven't come close to the original event.

In April 1970, one in 10 Americans united in nationwide demonstration calling for an end to pollution of the air, water and landscape.

With a full 10 percent of the entire population flooding the streets, woodlands and seashores with an organized voice, the environmental movement was launched.

Following the demonstration, the Clean Air Act passed Congress with a single dissenting vote and became law. Other swift outcomes included the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act, followed by establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

These measures created unity to ban DDT as a harmful chemical, remove lead from gasoline, and pass the Toxic Substance Control Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

The combination of cohesive will, science and love of country transformed modern America more fundamentally than most movements ever dream to achieve.

So what does that have to do with today?

The current crisis is certainly making many reassess what's important. Our inherent interdependence and importance of unity is tremendously evident.

The inability to go out makes people realize how many of their possessions are superfluous. Not only do we not need so much stuff, it's not stuff that's important to us.

See **GENERATIONS**, page C2

Photo provided / Hetzler Studio

The Steinke family poses for a picture in 1940. The photo of "Berrien's largest family reunion," according to newspaper accounts, hung in the window of J. H. Hetzler's photo studio in Benton Harbor.

What can you find in the rabbit hole?

Take an adventure through The Herald-Palladium's online archives while you're stuck at home

So you've been home for three weeks now.

You've exhausted your Facebook and Twitter feeds. You've watched everything on Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime Video, Disney+ and a couple other streaming services you forgot you had.

Andy Steinke

You've serviced the lawn mower, decommissioned the snow blower, and thatched the yard for the first time since the Reagan administration. You've washed the dog and even finished your spring cleaning – twice (thanks, coronavirus).

So, now what?

May I suggest a trip down the rabbit hole.

As you might recall, The Herald-Palladium digitized its archives in 2018, as part of our 150th anniversary celebration. There are now nearly 1.2 million pages from The Herald-Palladium, and all seven of its predecessors, available to search online through newspapers.com.

For just $4.95 a month, it's a cheap and quarantine-friendly way to pass the time. Hopefully we'll all be back to our offices soon, and you won't have to spring for that 6-month plan.

If you're not sure what to search for, try simply entering your last name, or perusing the collection of recent clippings to see what others have been saving.

To whet your whistle, here's a sampling of what I've found this year as I've searched through the old papers.

Real estate transfers

Could there be anything more boring than a list of who sold what property to whom for how much in 1920?

Maybe not. But it's everyday public records like these that make the archives great for research.

For example, I was able to pinpoint the exact day The Herald-Press (and the other newspapers of the time) recorded my great-grandfather August buying the family farm in Sodus. The reporting included who he bought it from (his wife's relative), how much he paid ($1), where it was located (if you can decipher legal land descriptions) and how much land was purchased (60 acres) – all in one sentence.

The information helped me verify that the farm has been in the family for 100 years old, and we can now apply for Centennial Farm status.

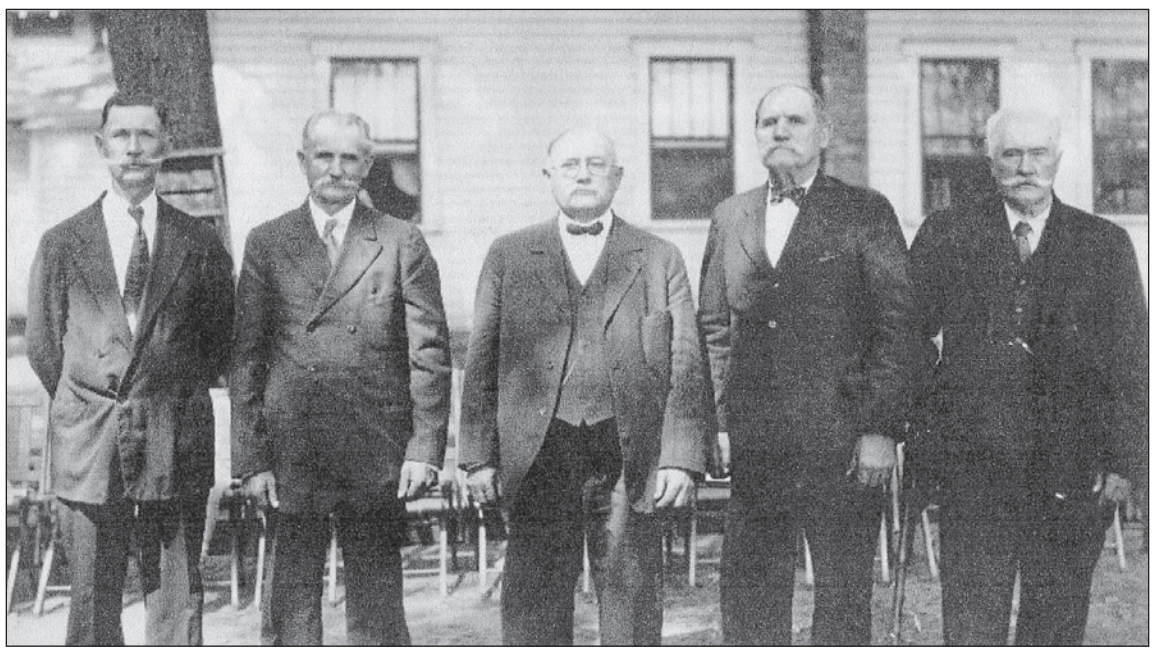


Photo provided / Andy Steinke

From left, brothers August, Julius, Henry, Edward and John Steinke pose for a picture at the 1929 Steinke family reunion at Lake Chapin in Berrien Springs.

On the web

Find our complete archives online at heraldpalladium.newspapers.com.

Family reunions

Holding family reunions were all the rage before the internet became a thing. The Steinke family was no exception.

In fact, they once held some of the largest family reunions in Berrien County; 250 to 300 people were not uncommon at the gatherings.

A photo from the 12th family reunion in 1940 – because sometimes reunion organizers paid photographers to take official photos – was put on display in J. H. Hetzler's photo studio in Benton Harbor.

The News-Palladium news clipping

Michigan Gov. William Comstock was the guest of honor at the Steinke family reunion in 1933.

As many of the attendees were engaged in farming, the reunions were held on Labor Day, because the fruit market was closed. Entertainment included auctions, penny scrambles, balloon blowing contests, bingo and baseball games between the farmers and the city dwellers in the family. And prizes were awarded to the youngest, oldest, newest married and the person who traveled the farthest to attend.

The most surprising reunion news I found was from 1933, when Michigan Gov. William Comstock joined the family for their reunion in Cass County – for three hours!

Becoming an American

My great-grandfather August hopped on a boat to America from Germany with his family when he was just 4 years old, according to his obituary.

I knew my lineage was German, but I didn't know when my ancestors' status as American citizens started until I found it in our archives.

According to the April 14, 1910, edition of The Herald-Press,

See **STEINKE**, page C2

Was March 2020 the weirdest month of the 21st century?

Chris Carlson / AP

Lucy Kwak paints a sign on the window of a fast food chain's restaurant indicating that the drive-thru window is still open as well as a takeout option during the coronavirus outbreak in Garden Grove, Calif.

By STEPHANIE FARR
The Philadelphia Inquirer

An old phrase says "May you live in interesting times," and while it sounds like a blessing, it's often thought to be a curse.

The coronavirus has upended life as we know it. Store shelves and city streets are empty; drive-thrus for both fast food and pandemic testing are essential; and distilleries are producing hand sanitizer instead of hooch.

For the first time in generations, people of all generations agree on one thing: This is something none of us have experienced before.

And it's pretty weird. In fact, March 2020 may be the strangest month yet of the 21st century.

Of course, there are serious health, societal and economic implications of all that happened last month. But this story isn't about those things. It's about what made the month even weirder in the face of a global pandemic.

Palin opens for Trump with Sir Mix-A-Lot

"The Masked Singer" was already doing just fine in the completely-insane-reality-show department before Sarah Palin sashayed onto the stage.

In what other singing competition could rapper T-Pain beat out Gladys Knight or basketball star Victor Oladipo best Patti LaBelle?

But when Palin, a 2008 vice presidential nominee, was unmasked as the Bear on March 11, and performed Sir Mix-A-Lot's "Baby Got Back" to close out the episode, the show took strange to a whole new level.

Even more surreal was that for those who viewed the show live on Fox, Palin's performance of the song – the most popular line of which is "I like big butts and I cannot lie" – led directly into President Donald Trump's Oval Office address about the coronavirus pandemic.

So, a former vice-presidential-candidate-turned-reality star inadvertently opened up for a reality-star-turned president.

And we were all like "Oh my God, Becky, look at her sing about butts."

See **MARCH**, page C2

ENGAGEMENT

Alexander Natonek

Audra Alexander and Paul Natonek are planning a Sept. 26, 2020, wedding in Kansas City, Mo.

Alexander, the daughter of Catherine Lynch of Los Angeles and Berry Alexander of Kansas City, graduated from William Chrisman High School and the University of Missouri – Kansas City. She is employed with Hillstone Restaurant Group in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Her fiancé, the son of Phillip and Paula Natonek of Stevensville, graduated from Lakeshore High School and Kalamazoo College. He also is employed with Hillstone Restaurant Group.

When good people do stupid things

Jim McConnell
Insights

I am a pastor and an advocate for religion. I love religion, and I think that we, as an American society, need a lot more of it.

Further, I believe religions such as Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Mormonism, Buddhism, indigenous religions, religious atheism, or New Age practices can be powerful vehicles for deepening one's relationship to the "Sacred Dimension."

The problem is, I have several secular atheist friends who often remind me about some stupid or cruel thing we religious people have done because of our religion. Unfortunately, they are often right.

Why do we religious people, good people, do stupid things?

Part of the answer is that we are human, and humans make stupid mistakes – all humans, not just religious people.

It's my opinion, however, that the greatest part of why we religious people do stupid things is because instead of using our religion as a pathway to greater understandings of grace, compassion and love, we use religion to hide behind, like a magic talisman to ward off evil.

This was really brought home to me about 40 years ago when I was a seminary student.

As I lay on the floor, my then-2-year-old son, Mike, jumped feet first from the couch onto my stomach. I was so sickened that my wife took me to the hospital emergency room.

I was placed in a curtained off area where I was able to hear a lot of what was happening with other patients. In the curtained area next to me lay a dear woman in her 80s who had fallen and broken her hip.

At one point, she cried out, "Why did this happen to me? I have been a good Christian all my life. I go to church every Sunday. I read the Bible every day. This should not be happening to me."

This is an example of badly understood religion. I make this statement without judgment. Most of us who are religious have probably been guilty of this mistake at one time or another.

Religion is not a shield or a fortress wall that protects us from difficulties. Challenging things happen all the time to religious people. Our religion is what helps us accept these things and transcend them with courage, faith and hope.

It is when we use religion as a prophylactic against the bad stuff in life when we do stupid things. Religion is about "setting free" and "opening up," not cowering away from life by shutting ourselves behind the walls of our pet theological ideologies. Magical thinking is not good religious practice.

In this age of COVID-19, the news is full of religious people, very good people, doing very stupid things. Some churches are being stupid by continuing to hold worship services, prayer meetings, choir practices and fundraising events.

Last week, a friend of ours, who is a lifelong committed Christian, has been to seminary, has pastored churches, and is a smart person, offered to drop in for a visit with my wife and me. My wife politely declined, and reminded her of the threat from COVID-19.

The response was: "God is in control. We are safe from the virus."

This, in my opinion, is stupid religion.

Before it is finished, this virus may kill hundreds of thousands of people. We need to be smart about how we deal with this disease. The best way to do that may be to shelter-in-place.

While you are sheltering, it would be OK to get to know more about your religion by studying the thought of the great men and women of your particular faith expression. Deepen your bonds to "The Holy." Let go of magical thinking.

Don't be stupid! The world needs religious people like you.

Today's Insights was written by the Rev. Jim McConnell, pastor of Berrien Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in St. Joseph. Insights is written by area clergy to give different viewpoints on a variety of topics. It is published each Saturday in cooperation with the Berrien County Association of Churches. The views expressed by the author do not necessarily reflect the views of member churches.

CHURCH NOTES

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 2673 W. John Beers Road, Stevensville, has canceled all upcoming face-to-face services and activities. The church will continue to hold online services on its Facebook and YouTube pages. For more information, visit www.stpaulswels.org.

Zion St. Joe United Church of Christ, 3001 Veronica Drive, St. Joseph, will celebrate Palm Sunday at 10 a.m. Sunday on its Facebook page (ZionChurchStJoe). The Rev. Adam Bohland will conclude the series entitled, "The Final Words From the Cross." This week's message will be "It is Finished" based on John 19:30 and Luke 23:44-47.

Easter services

Will your Easter service be online this year? Email focus@thehp.com, and we'll let people know where they can find it.

Church Notes is a free listing, published Saturdays as a public service. Announcements are due by noon Wednesday. Late items will not be published. The editor reserves the right to edit for space and style. Incomplete information may not be published. First and last names should be furnished. Pictures submitted should include names of those shown. Send items to: Church Notes, The Herald-Palladium, P.O. Box 128, St. Joseph, MI 49085; fax to 429-4398 or email to focus@TheHP.com. Items should include a daytime telephone number.

STEINKE

From page C1

August was one of three Berrien County residents who passed his exam on naturalization day that morning.

The discovery led me to wonder "What did it take to become an American citizen in the early 1900s?" For many it was a two-part process: a declaration of intent and applying for naturalization.

During their declaration of intent, immigrants agreed, under oath, to renounce all allegiances to foreign governments and become a loyal U.S. citizen. It was also known as "taking out first papers," and could be done after living in the United States for two years. Most applicants then waited another three years before applying for naturalization.

The gap allowed them to become affiliated with the country and to learn about the government. The need to declare for citizenship was done away with in 1952, but some people still do it today.

After a successful exam with a government official, the petition for naturalization was granted, and the person became a citizen.

Other avenues to citizenship included military service and citizenship through parental citizenship.

When tragedy strikes

I was digging through the "farm scenes" photo file in the office recently when I came across a photo of peaches being harvested at the Erich Steinke farm.

HP file photo

Pickers harvest Hale-Haven peaches on the Erich Steinke farm near Sodus on Aug. 16, 1939.

It had a date on it, so I hit the online archives to see if it was used in print. It was, but not until the year-end section was printed on Dec. 31, 1939. It was buried on page 134 of that day's paper.

Wanting to learn more about Erich, I ventured into the rabbit hole and was surprised by what I found.

Obviously, he was a farmer, one of nine children born to my great-great-grandparents, but what else could I find about him? That's when I came across this.

In 1929, the "popular Sodus young man" was set to marry 20-year-old Dorothy Wohler, herself the daughter of prominent Sodus farmers. But she died, on her wedding day, before they could tie the knot.

"Her death was ascribed to complications of anaemia and Bright's disease," according to The News-Palladium. Instead of performing her wedding, the Rev. Raymond Timmel preached at her funeral – in the same church where she was to be married – a few days later.

While sad, Erich found love again, and was married for 44 years to Alice, who outlasted him, and lived to be 94.

The discovery was an unexpected find, but it serves an important point: When you venture into the archives, you're likely to find a lot more than you were looking for.

Andy Steinke is the features editor for The Herald-Palladium. Email him your adventures down the rabbit hole at asteinke@TheHP.com.

MARCH

From page C1

Game over

Also on March 11, NBA officials announced they were suspending the season. The following day, the NHL and MLB followed suit.

Amid the sports desert we find ourselves in, the definition of sports seems to have broadened exponentially.

Before all the bars were shut down, some Philadelphia establishments began showing more obscure events, like the biathlon.

And now, some 24/7 sports networks are taking interesting chances, like Fox Sports 2, which recently aired the 144th Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. On March 22, ESPN aired an entire lineup of obscure sporting events, like the World Sign Spinning Championships, the Stupid Robot Fighting League, and Slippery Stairs: College Tour.

Bored sports commentators, like Englishman Nick Heath, have even begun to comment on everyday life as if it were a live sporting event.

All of social media marveled at his commentary for "Pigeon Dressage" and "Drag A Load of Tat."

The emptiness

From empty streets to empty shelves, the barren landscapes of our cities and stores have an apocalyptic overtone that's hard to shake, like we should all be stocking up glasses so we don't end up like that bookworm in the Twilight Zone episode.

For city dwellers, it's been particularly strange seeing subways cars and buses empty.

And it's not just the pictures of our hometowns that stun us, the emptiness is worldwide, from Times Square – where the singing Naked Cowboy was both naked and singing for nobody in particular Sunday – to the Vatican, where Pope Francis said a prayer for the world in the rain before an empty St. Peter's Square.

The drive-thru has its day

The drive-thru – that place you always wanted to go as a kid but everyone said was bad for you —certainly experienced a glow up in March.

Never before in human history has the drive-thru been so essential and popular a concept. With social distancing mandates keeping us apart, drive-thrus are busier than ever, from those that serve fast food to pop-up drive-thrus for coronavirus testing.

Churches have gotten in on the drive-thru trend, too. Some have held drive-thru communion, and on Sunday, several congregations gathered at a drive-in movie theater in Cumberland County, Pa., for a church service in their cars (giving a whole new meaning to Jesus take the wheel).

The 'Cornavirus Challenge'

This is one of those things – like washing your hands – that nobody should have to tell you at any time, pandemic or not: Do not lick toilets.

Several wannabe influencers tried to start a dangerous and disgusting social media trend last month: The Coronavirus Challenge, in which they challenged people to film themselves licking public objects – namely, toilet seats – in the face of the coronavirus.

Instagram model Ava Louise allegedly started the trend by filming herself licking a toilet on an airplane.

Another influencer who did the challenge – and whose Twitter account has since been suspended – claimed he contracted the coronavirus just days after he become intimate with a public toilet.

No, just no, humanity. We can't stress how important it is to practice safe social distancing with people – and with public toilets.

GENERATIONS

From page C1

Juliet Schor, a sociology professor at Boston College and the author of "True Wealth," has studied the relationship between consumption of goods and societal change for a long time. She points out it's the production of goods that leads consumption. While consumers buy, they're not necessarily the leaders in this equation.

Taking a historic look, the last 70 years is called the Great Acceleration. The post World War II era saw tremendous production growth, resulting in buying. Happiness abounds – or not.

Per Schor, the impact of the of the Great Acceleration "... has been monumentally devastating for the planet."

Sociologically speaking, we are now in what's referred to as the Anthropocene, an era where humans are actually changing the basic chemistry of the planet.

So, if economic growth takes natural capital and human capital, and neither is infinite, there's a different discussion in play for Earth Day 2020. Understanding and interest in this is mounting.

Shahzeen Attari is an associate professor of public and environmental affairs at Indiana University and an Andrew Carnegie Fellow working on resource use and climate change. She finds inspiration in the growing activism and political interest of young people, and the sophistication of their global reach through efforts like the Sunrise Movement at www.sunrisemovement.org.

What's often urged, is taking a look at how much you've commodified your life. A lot of that seems to be happening right now.

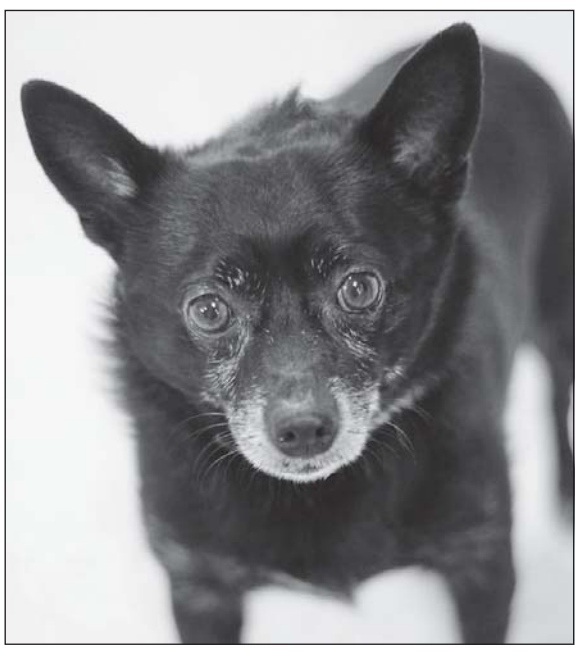
Schor reminds us, "It's just a mere 100 companies that account for 70 percent of all the carbon pollution in the world", and "... 10 percent of the world's population is responsible for about 50 percent of greenhouse gas emissions."

This is doable if there's a will.

Take a look at www.earthday.org. While having kids draw pictures of trees or planting a garden is good, it's confection compared to the possibilities.

Lynn Kellogg is CEO of Region IV Area Agency on Aging in Southwest Michigan. Questions on age or independence services? Call the Info-Line for Aging & Disability at 800-654-2810 or visit www.areaagencyonaging.org. The Generations column appears each Saturday in The Herald-Palladium.

PET OF THE WEEK



Onyx is a Chihuahua-Pomeranian mix who is 7 years old, house-trained, current on shots, neutered and wants to be the only pet; no children preferred. He loves other dogs and wags his tail at cats. Interested in adopting him? Reach Berrien County Animal Control at 927-5648 or vbohland@berriencounty.org.

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this Sixth Sunday in Lent, Palm Sunday,
April 5 at 10:00 a.m. to hear Rev. Adam
Bohland conclude the series
"The Final Words From the Cross"
This week he will speak on
"It is Finished"
based on John 19: 30a and Luke 23: 44-47
Forward Thinking ~ Family Sized Church
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hp SPORTS

MHSAA cancels winter, spring sports seasons

By MAXWELL HARDEN
HP Sports Writer

A decision that many deemed inevitable has finally come to pass.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association moved to cancel the remainder of the 2019-20 winter and spring sports seasons Friday afternoon.

The decision came a day after Gov. Gretchen Whitmer issued a "state of disaster" directive to close school buildings and move education online for the remainder of the school year to help decrease the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus.

"We are heartbroken to not be able to provide these opportunities for Michigan's student-athletes, and especially seniors. We continue to hear from dozens asking us to hold out hope. But safety always must come first, and Gov. Whitmer is making courageous decisions to safeguard the people of our state," MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl said in a news release. "We understand as much as anyone how much school sports mean to athletes and their communities. We had ideas and hopes for finishing winter and spring and helping bring some sort of normalcy after this long break. But this is the correct decision, and we will play our part in bringing schools and communities together again when the time is right.

"For now, we cannot state strongly enough that all students, staffs, and others follow the guidelines established to slow the spread of this virus – we all must do our part."

For Lakeshore athletic director Greg Younger, the news was expected but disappointing, nonetheless.

"It's devastating news to know that everything is shut down for these kids who have worked so hard," Younger said. "The decision is understandable considering the pandemic, but it's hard for the seniors, especially. It's hard to say anything to help them understand or feel better. This is a hard lesson in life for all of us."

The MHSAA suspended its girls and boys basketball, girls gymnastics, boys ice hockey and boys swimming and diving tournaments on March 12 due to coronavirus concerns and suspended all sports activities on March 13.

Berrien Springs baseball coach John Donley approved of the MHSAA's decision to cancel the season, albeit with a heavy heart.

"It was a good decision," he said. "Inevitable, really. Mark Uyl is an outstanding leader and he waited as long as he could. He waited to hear from the experts. The health and safety of everyone involved was the most important. I understand it but disappointed that these young men and women won't get to play their senior seasons."

With student-athletes at home, getting a hold of the team in order to have a debrief can be a challenge.

"A lot of the girls are unavailable," St. Joseph softball coach Joe Spitale said. "We're going to try to meet on Google Hangouts. Communicating with our athletes is important. It's weird having to debrief the team this way, but everyone's in the same boat."

The unprecedented situation leaves players and coaches wondering what could've been.

"There's no closure for it," Younger said. "Our boys basketball team was having a really good run. Our winter sports should've all had team banquets by now. Kids have uniforms and equipment at home that will be hard to get back. I feel terrible for our spring kids. Some of the teams never established a roster due to tryouts taking place. It's all kind of left out there in the unknown."

Donley noted that sports aren't the only thing his players will be missing out on.

"Things like senior proms and graduation ceremonies are gone," he said. "They're missing these milestone moments of their lives. You just got to have faith things will get better."

"It's a tough pill to swallow but we've had several of those in the past few weeks," Younger said. "You just never know; nothing is guaranteed. Hopefully, we can learn from this and not take things for granted going forward."

Contact: mharden@thehp.com, 932-0371, @HPMaxwellHarden

PHOTO OF THE DAY

Don Campbell / HP staff See more photos:heraldpalladium.mycapture.com

St. Joseph's Leah Barlow shoots over Portage Northern's Addison Bobbio during a game at St. Joseph High School on Jan. 31.

While live sports are on hold, The HP is reprinting some of Photo Editor Don Campbell's favorite photos from the recent high school sports season.

Sarett Spring Stampede 5K race goes virtual

Other races could take same approach as coronavirus impacts running season

By BEN SANDERS
HP Sports Editor

Anyone who signed up to compete in the Sarett Spring Stampede can still head to Sarett Nature Center on April 11 as planned, run or walk the five-kilometer course, and get their race shirt and participation medal.

Participants can also complete their 5K at a local park in the middle of the week, or on the treadmill at home the following weekend.

The Spring Stampede is now a virtual race. Participants can choose to finish their 5K on their own terms anytime from April 11-19 and, allowing them to still compete while maintaining social distancing during the coronavirus outbreak.

"It became fairly obvious we weren't going to be able to have the typical race with lots of people," said Mike Mahler, Sarett naturalist and race director. "(The virtual race is) maybe not as fun, but it beats the option of canceling the event. It provides a nice distraction from what's going on the world."

With a shelter-in-place order in effect in Michigan, virtual races could become the reality for this spring and summer running season.

They're not an entirely new phenomenon. Mahler noted that larger charities have held them in the past to attract a bigger field of participants.

Mahler said reaction to the change has so far been positive, with only a few racers requesting refunds and others plotting their strategies. Sarett's course will remain set up through the 19th, although runners aren't required to use it.

"There are people that like running or walking the course at Sarett," Mahler said. "I had other people tell me they were going to find a flat course with no hills."

Mahler mentioned that registration has been extended past the initial deadline of April 1 and is available on runsignup.com. Door prizes will also still be drawn and can be picked up along with race shirts and medals at Sarett once racers have completed their 5K.

Whether other local races follow suit remains to be seen. Those are decisions that Marianne Groth, president of the SWMI RACERS (Red Arrow Club for Endurance, Running and walking Sports), is currently dealing with, and they come with many logistical challenges.

RACERS puts on several local events each year, and members of the club also get discounted entry fees for other races.

Groth has already dealt with one cancellation – Coloma's St. Patrick's Day 5K, scheduled for March 14, had to be called off at the last minute as the virus became of greater concern.

Postponements are an option for some races – the RACERS Superhero 5K in Benton Harbor was moved from April 18 to August 15. However, as more races change dates, the fall running schedule could become crowded.

"We're just hoping other race directors look at race calendars," Groth said. "We already have enough congestion as it is."

The next event hosted by RACERS is the Once Upon a Time 5K in Baroda on July 25. Groth is hoping that and other late summer and fall events can proceed as usual, but has been discussing options in online forum discussions with other race directors.

"We have not made the decision to do anything virtual yet," Groth said. "We're certainly supporting the Sarett Spring Stampede."

Groth noted that the Spring Stampede has advantages in going virtual that other races do not. Sarett has private property and can leave its course open for an extended period of time. Races scheduled for a downtown area may not have that option.

Race packet distribution is also a challenge, and Groth said that mailing out packets can become expensive.

And of course, running alone just isn't the same.

"A lot of runners don't consider a virtual run to be a race," Groth said. "They want the competition."

Making a virtual race as competitive as possible is also challenging. Technology such as Fitbit and Strava can be used by runners to prove their performance is legitimate. Mahler said that the Spring Stampede will give out medals for participation rather than places in each age group to deter anyone from submitting a fraudulent time.

"I think it's really going to have to be on the honor system," Mahler said. "I'm still trying to work out the finer details."

Though virtual races have their flaws and challenges, they remain preferable to calling off events.

"You don't want to cancel your race," Groth said. "You want the history of it to repeat itself.

"I think people are missing the opportunity to run. I hope we will still have a good race season."

Contact: bsanders@thehp.com, 429-1294, @HPBenSanders

SMAC announces all-conference picks

By HP STAFF

The Southwestern Michigan Athletic Conference released its all-conference selections for winter sports recently, and several Lakeshore and St. Joseph athletes made the cut.

The Lakeshore wrestling team continued its dominance in SMAC West play, finishing with a 5-0 division record and a SMAC tournament title. The Lancers advanced to the Division 2 state semifinals.

Division 2 135-pound state champion Shane Williams was the SMAC tournament champion for the Lancers at 140, along with James Harris (145) and Zeke Rohl (215). Aaron Lucio (119) and D2 130-pound state champion Micah Hanau (135) earned second-team spots. Cam Litaker (112), Taylor Lucas (103), Jonathon Gelesko (125), Sammy Prince (152), Tafara Rukunda (171), and Tanner Underwood (189) made honorable mention.

For St. Joseph, Division 2 103-pound champion Nolan Wertanen earned a second-team finish in the SMAC tournament along with Jacob Halsey (125). Yazan Farhan (140) and Matthew Morris made honorable mention.

Niles' Mikey Robles (103), Ryan Franco (130) Javond Ball (135), and Caiden Smith made the first-team while Jamison Zimmerman (112) made the second-team. Skylar Means (140), Carson Landon (119), and Connor Tibbits earned honorable mentions.

The Lakeshore boys basketball team earned a West division title after finishing conference play with a 9-1 record (18-4 overall).

JJ Bushu, Dylan Clem and Ben Brower were first-team all-West selections for the Lancers, while Ja'Kobe Young was named honorable mention.

For St. Joseph, Jeremiah Sterling, Brennen Kerns, Nick Borre, Luke Hedstrom and Andy Blomgren were honorable mention Selections. Niles' Demarien Nichols was named first-team and Mike Gilcrese honorable mention.

The St. Joseph girls basketball team had three first-team all-West players in Symone King, Cailynn Junk and Emma Inman, while Niles' Alycia Patterson and Amara Palmer also earned first-team honors. Lakeshore's Morgan Tillman, Hollee Hercik and Ella Jeske were honorable mention selections, as was Niles' Reese Davies.

In competitive cheer, St. Joseph's Vanessa Schoudt and Lakeshore's Kiana Lewis and Morgan Labis were first-team honorees.

The St. Joseph boys swimming and diving team placed third overall in conference. Leading the Bears was first-team selection Ayden Moyer and second-teamers Andrew Moyer and Troy Burrow. Bridgman's Parker Roach and Johnathon Pilsow were named to the first team and Cody Schimmel and Matt Parsky the second team.

Bears declare open competition between QBs Trubisky, Foles

By ANDREW SELIGMAN
Associated Press

The Chicago Bears declared the quarterback competition between Mitchell Trubisky and newcomer Nick Foles an open one on Friday.

General manager Ryan Pace made that clear during a conference call, saying both players are "embracing" the battle that will play out whenever offseason workouts begin.

Coach Matt Nagy stressed that Trubisky will be the first quarterback on the field whenever practices begin, But he planned to give Trubisky and Foles equal time with the starters. He also said both will play in the preseason as part of the evaluation.

"It's going to be equal and we as coaches need to make sure we do the right thing in regard to equal reps, and make sure they're playing with similar or the same players on offense and going against the same players on defense," Nagy said. "There will be some juggling that we'll have to do. It might be a little different at times on how we do it and how we get to it. But I can promise you this: It's going to be completely fair, it's going to be extremely competitive in a good way."

Pace largely staked his reputation to Trubisky when he traded up a spot with San Francisco to draft him with the No. 2 overall pick in 2017. And the results have been mixed.

Trubisky was selected to replace Jared Goff in the Pro Bowl after his second season. But instead of taking another big step forward last year, he struggled as the Bears stumbled to an 8-8 record and missed the playoffs after winning the NFC North at 12-4 in 2018.

Pace said after the season the Bears remained committed to Trubisky as their starter, though they weren't ruling out bringing in a veteran to push him.

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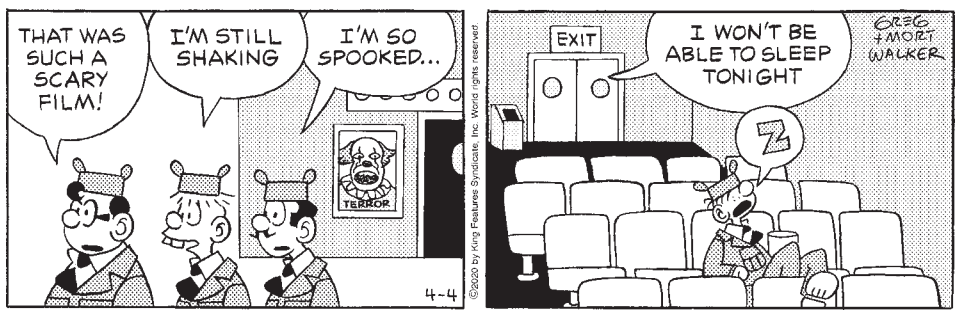
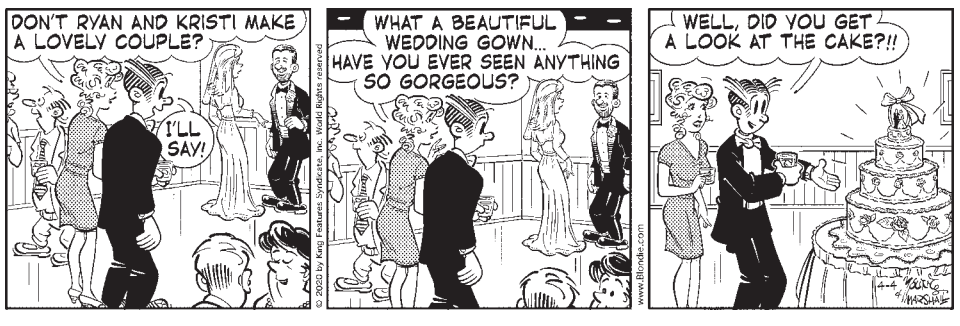
BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE


DON'T RYAN AND KRISTI MAKE A LOVELY COUPLE?
I'LL SAY!
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL WEDDING GOWN... HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ANYTHING SO GORGEOUS?
WELL, DID YOU GET A LOOK AT THE CAKE?!!
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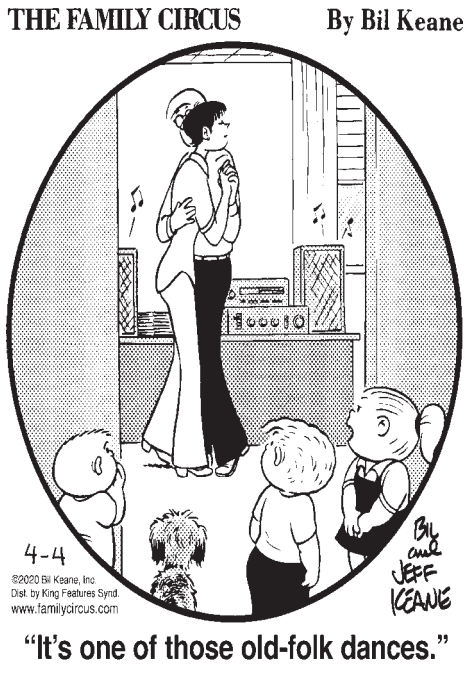
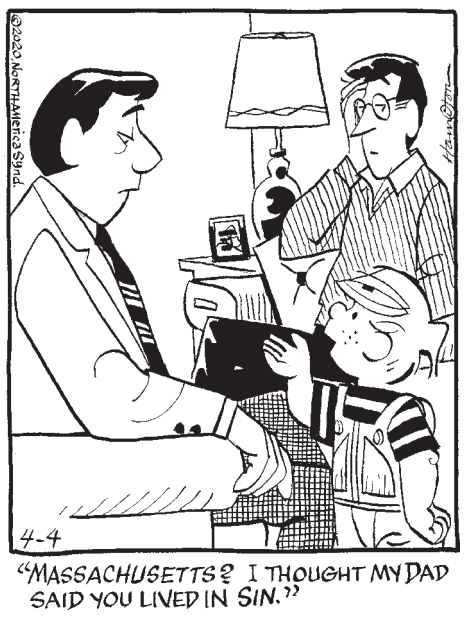
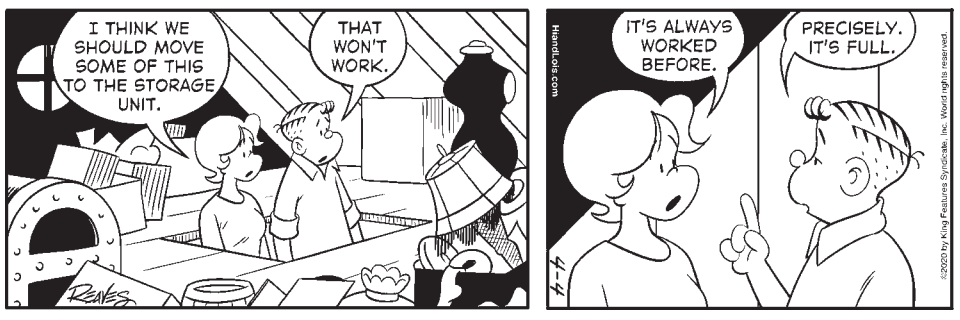
FAMILY CIRCUS



DENNIS THE MENACE



HI & LOIS


I THINK WE SHOULD MOVE SOME OF THIS TO THE STORAGE UNIT.
THAT WON'T WORK.
IT'S ALWAYS WORKED BEFORE.
PRECISELY. IT'S FULL.
4-4
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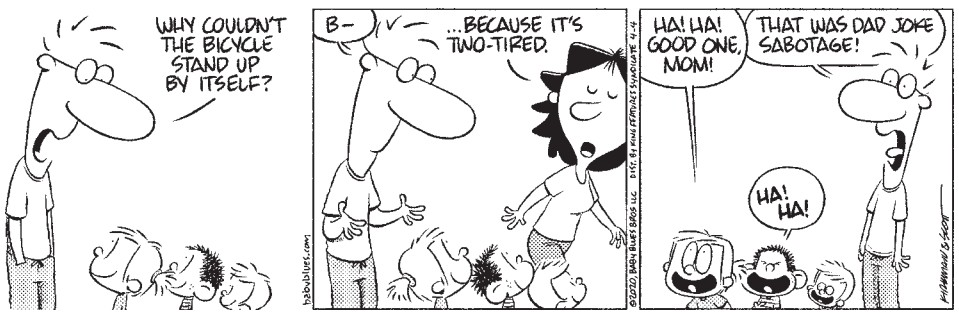
Hiandlois.com

BABY BLUES

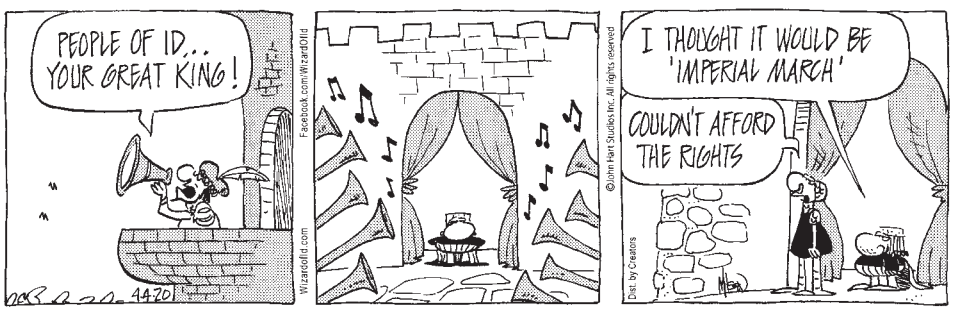


BC

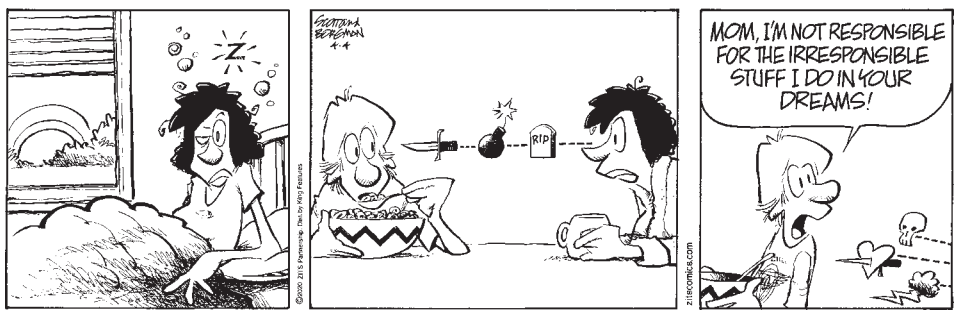
CURTIS

WHINE ARE WE FINISHED FOR TODAY?
CURTIS, IT'S 11 O'CLOCK
WHINE CAN'T WE STOP FOR LUNCH?
CURTIS, IT'S 11 O'CLOCK!
OOO, MY STOMACH'S BUBBLIN', CAN'T I BE EXCUSED?
4-4
I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND WHY ALL THE LETTERS FROM MRS.NELSON
BILLINGSLEY

WIZARD OF ID



ZITS


SCOTTIE A. BERGMAN
4-4
RIP
MOM, I'M NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE IRRESPONSIBLE STUFF I DO IN YOUR DREAMS!
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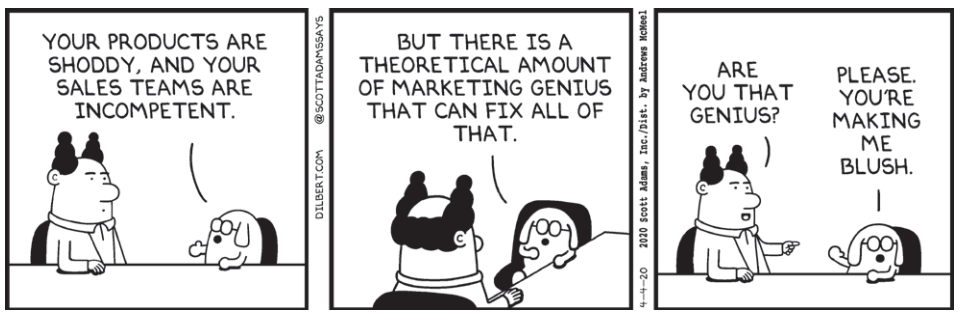
DILBERT


YOUR PRODUCTS ARE SHODDY, AND YOUR SALES TEAMS ARE INCOMPETENT.
BUT THERE IS A THEORETICAL AMOUNT OF MARKETING GENIUS THAT CAN FIX ALL OF THAT.
DILBERT.COM @SCOTTADAMSSAYS
ARE YOU THAT GENIUS?
PLEASE. YOU'RE MAKING ME BLUSH.
4-4-20
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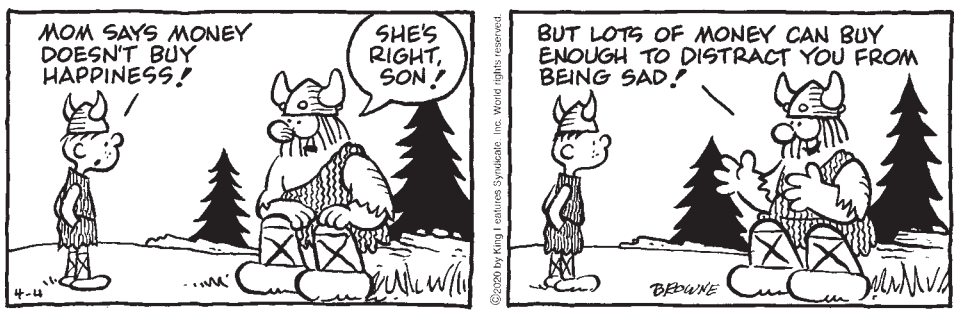
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE


MOM SAYS MONEY DOESN'T BUY HAPPINESS!
SHE'S RIGHT, SON!
4-4
BUT LOTS OF MONEY CAN BUY ENOUGH TO DISTRACT YOU FROM BEING SAD!
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BROWNE

GARFIELD

HEY, CAT! DON'T MESS WITH ME...
OR YOU'LL MEET MY BIG BROTHER LARRY!
I KNOW HIM
"LARRY ALMONDINE"... WE MET OVER DINNER
JIM DAVIS 4-4
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

FORT KNOX

THE WOMAN AT THE SENIOR CENTER LIFTED MY CURSE!
THAT'S GREAT TO HEAR, MOM.
STEP ON A CRACK
NOW I CAN STOP WORRYING ABOUT BITING THE DUST.
DEAD INSIDE
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO CELEBRATE?
POP QUIZ
SKYDIVE.
WHAT GOES UP
GoComics.com/FortKnox
4/04
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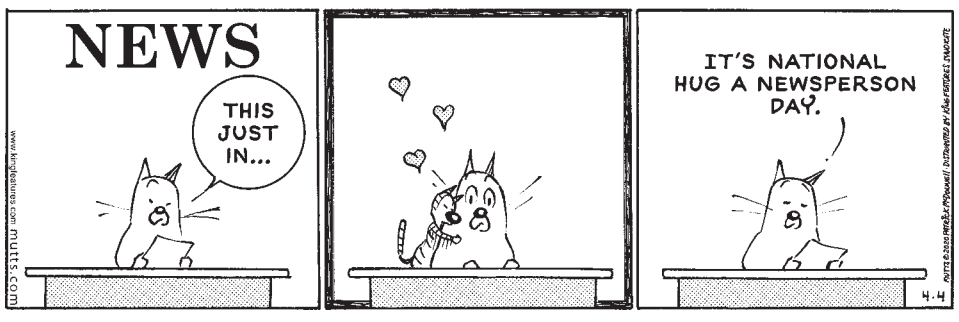
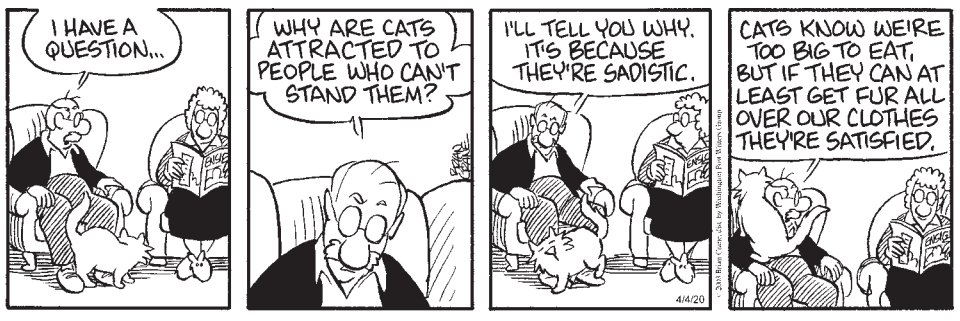
MUTTS



PICKLES


I HAVE A QUESTION...
WHY ARE CATS ATTRACTED TO PEOPLE WHO CAN'T STAND THEM?
I'LL TELL YOU WHY. IT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE SADISTIC.
CATS KNOW WE'RE TOO BIG TO EAT, BUT IF THEY CAN AT LEAST GET FUR ALL OVER OUR CLOTHES THEY'RE SATISFIED.
4/4/20
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SALLY FORTH

WHY WOULD YOU TWO HIRE ME?! HOW COULD YOU HIRE ME WITHOUT MY KNOWING?!
WE THOUGHT YOU'D SAY NO IF YOU KNEW IT WAS US, SO I SPOKE WITH A DEEP VOICE LIKE THIS.
THAT ALSO SOUNDS LIKE YOU.
WELL, I DID HAVE A COLD THEN, TOO.
PLUS, WE GOT SOMEONE ELSE TO MAKE THE CALL.
4-4
THE FACT I HAVEN'T LEFT YET PROBABLY SAYS TOO MUCH ABOUT MY PROFESSIONAL STATUS RIGHT NOW.
THEN COME ON IN! YOU CAN HELP US DECIDE WHAT TO GET FOR LUNCH.
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hp OUTDOORS

Submitting hunting or fishing photos

Have a behemoth buck, a tremendous turkey or super-sized salmon? Please submit photos to sports@TheHP.com.

Your photo must be in focus, all persons in the photo must be identified, and the general location of the hunt must be provided (for example, 10-point buck shot in Benton Township, black bear shot near Munising, Mich., etc.)

Fox sparrows a welcome sign of spring

It's a comforting feeling to know that despite the fact our lives have been turned upside down lately, spring is still upon us and life is renewing itself.

Fox sparrows have appeared en masse in Southwest Michigan in recent days, showing up in backyards, forest edges, and feeders. Two fox sparrows were photographed last week at the feeders of Robert and Marlene Smith of Bridgman.

Jonathan Wuepper
Southwest Michigan Wildlife

Of the sparrows, the fox is perhaps the most robust appearing, or downright chunky, and sports a red and gray plumage in both sexes.

They spend most of their lives on the ground, often heard rustling among leaves and brush looking for sustenance during late March and April in our region.

Each spring and fall, fox sparrows are commonly seen over relatively short windows of opportunity in the area, before the great majority of them pass in north to central Canada for the nesting season, or south to the southern U.S. for the winter.

While just a handful of the species are present in winter, an influx slowly builds during March, and generally peaks between March 25 and April 17. Numbers of fox sparrows sharply decline in southern Michigan during the last half of April. Sightings after April 25 are of note, and May reports are few and far between.

In the autumn they begin to appear here during the last days of September, most numerous between October 10 and Halloween, tapering off through November.

On March 28 Brad Anderson came upon 20 or so turkey vultures perched in a tree in Bridgman. He was able to capture the image of a few of them, and if you look closely, you can see the bald heads of these eagle-sized birds.

Turkey vultures are observed most often while in flight, easily identified by their "V" shaped appearance as they soar.

Turkey vultures are not birds of prey, but are in fact scavengers that feed on carrion along roadsides.

Fifty years ago, the summer range of the turkey vulture in Michigan did not extend north of a line running from Muskegon to Bay City. Northward range expansion over the last half-century has occurred, and it now inhabits both peninsulas of Michigan, though less common in the north.

Other noteworthy sightings this past week include the return of a pair of osprey to the Madron Lake Road nest, outside Buchanan, as reported by Mary Jo Canaday of Berrien Springs. Osprey, possibly the same pair, have nested in this location for around a decade.

I observed a northern shrike on March 29 along Marquette Woods Road, east of Lincoln Avenue in Lincoln Township.

The northern shrike is about the size of a blue jay, but is gray, black and white in appearance. It preys on small birds and mammals, often impaling them on barbed wire or thorns which has nicknamed the species "butcherbird."

Northern shrikes are uncommon winter residents in our area. They vacate the lower 48 states during the summer months for Canada.

Jonathan Wuepper is an area naturalist. Report your sightings to him at wuepperj@gmail.com.

Photo provided / Robert Smith

A pair of fox sparrows sits beneath the feeders of Robert and Marlene Smith of Bridgman on March 28.

Photo provided / Brad Anderson

Turkey vultures perch in a tree in Bridgman.

Berrien County Sportsman's Club

Hunter safety classes: Currently canceled due to DNR order. Online classes are still available. Call Dan at 277-4789 for more information.

Trap and skeet shooting: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sundays, 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays.

Watervliet Rod & Gun Club

Carrying concealed weapon classes: 6-10 p.m. April 9; 8 a.m.-6 p.m. April 11. Register from 6-7 p.m. April 7. Saturday class features an attorney or police officer to speak and answer questions, an NRA course, personal protection in the home, and three hours of range time with one-on-one supervision. Cost is $100. Call 468-3837 to register.

State parks, trails, forests and other state-managed land

State parks and recreation areas currently remain open to provide residents with local opportunities to get outdoors. However, extensive travel should be minimal – and reserved only for essential needs – and effective social distancing is required so that unsafe conditions do not develop and state-managed lands can remain open.

Submit information for Get Outdoors to sports@TheHP.com, fax to 429-4392 or call 429-1294 by Wednesday.

Social distancing is no joke

I'll admit that I was one of the coronavirus skeptics when it first started making headlines about a month ago. It seemed like another one of those things that Democrats could use to attack President Trump and that the national media could use to scare everyone into watching the news.

Dave Mull

I didn't take it seriously until the rate of infection went berserk and the body count began.

It seems like quite a few people still haven't woken up. Like a guy my wife works with had a "Corona Party" the other night and invited a few friends over for drinks. Now my wife, whose place of employment is a funeral home and deemed essential, gets to work with a fellow who might be a new carrier of this thing. While no one I personally know has wound up on a ventilator yet, it appears like it will be just a matter of time. As in a few days.

I think we can agree that the state has been fairly proactive in the attempt to stop the spread by ordering everyone to practice social distancing. The week before last the Michigan DNR sent out a news release saying that fishing was okay as long as anglers stayed close to home – and at least six feet away from each other.

This week, because a bunch of anglers apparently ignored both of those admonitions, no one can access the Manistee River from the Tippy Dam Recreation area.

"Due to a surge in visitors at state parks over the last two weeks – including at Tippy Dam Recreation Area in Manistee County – DNR staff have observed many instances of improper social distancing (not keeping at least six feet between individuals) and visitors traveling long distances to visit these outdoor spaces," said the DNR missive, sent Tuesday. "Tippy Dam has seen a drastic increase in visitors, including people from all areas of the state. This type of nonessential travel could unintentionally increase the spread of COVID-19. To protect visitors, staff and nearby communities, the DNR has closed Tippy Dam Recreation Area, effective immediately, until further notice. The south side access, which is on land managed by Consumers Energy, also will be closed until further notice."

Photo provided / Dave Mull

Dave Mull caught this 20-plus-inch largemouth bass a week ago on a diminutive Ned rig.

The steelhead are thick up there, but unless guys run a boat up from somewhere else, the fish won't be seeing many lures or spawn bags.

Hopefully that closure will serve as a wake-up call. Fishing has been great so far this spring. Yours truly got out to a lake near Galesburg last Saturday and had the best day of catching big largemouth I've ever had. From my kayak I caught 14 fish by throwing a 2 ¾-inch Ned rig into water of six feet and less. Three were dandies, measuring 18 ½, 20 and 20 ¼ inches long (kayak anglers measure everything big). I had never caught two 20-plus-inch largemouth on the same day in Michigan before that day. Heck, I often go whole seasons without catching even one 20-incher.

In retrospect, I did two things that were stupid. First, the lake was about 35 miles away, and where I live north of Paw Paw, 19 lakes with public access are within six miles of my driveway. I didn't have to travel that far to go fishing. Second, when my fishing buddy handed me a cold beverage, I took it from him, obviously violating the six-foot rule. Dumb.

Thursday night while writing this column I texted some friends that I wouldn't be joining them at a secret lake full of big largemouth up by Newaygo on Friday. Driving 96 miles after writing this would have been pretty close to the epitome of hypocrisy.

It was not an easy decision. First, it seemed like catching some big ones would have been pretty easy, and I felt privileged to have received the invitation. Second, I just like hanging out with my kayak fishing friends. But, there's just no need to go that far to go fishing. While I don't like kayak fishing by myself, especially when the water is cold, I'll wear a dry suit to avoid hypothermia should I accidentally go swimming. And I always wear a PFD.

The fact is, we're facing a threat from an invisible enemy that people don't even know they're carrying and spreading. It's not that tough to stay six feet away from each other and to find places to fish close to home. We all need to take this thing seriously if we want to stay safe, not be a part of the problem and, least of all, keep fishing this spring.

Outdoors columnist Dave Mull lives in Paw Paw. Write to him at dave.sportfish.mull@gmail.com.

Anglers pondering whether to travel to fishing places where residents don't want visitors

By TONY KENNEDY
Star Tribune (Minneapolis) (TNS)

MINNEAPOLIS — To celebrate opening day of the spring steelhead run on Wisconsin's Brule River, Scott Thorpe throws a party that kicks off at 2:30 a.m.

Gathered on shore with his wife, brother, other family members, friends and a few dogs, they revel in darkness at the edge of Maytag Pool, where the Thorpes have hosted their "Brule Opener" since 1970. At dawn, they slide into the frigid water, secure their footing on the rocky bottom and make their first casts. The bite isn't always good, but the thrill never dies.

Whether it's the Brule this weekend, steelhead fishing north of Duluth in the coming weeks or early spring walleye and sturgeon fishing on the Rainy River, thousands of anglers across Minnesota and Wisconsin are having to decide whether to travel or stay home. In the far north and along the North Shore, elected officials, residents and even some resort owners are telling anglers that they're not welcome to visit right now.

"People can still go out and fish, but I would hope they don't come up here from out of the area," said Ed Arnesen, a commissioner for Lake of the Woods County who owns a fishing resort west of Baudette. "There is certainly local concern of the virus coming up from other areas."

Arnesen took part last week in a string of local decisions that shut down fishing ramps to the Rainy River to thwart the always-crowded walleye and sturgeon seasons that accompany ice-out. Kevin Adee, chairman of the Koochiching County Board, said the Department of Natural Resources is monitoring the situation but hasn't yet shut down a pair of Rainy River boat ramps in International Falls.

Residents of the area fear that anglers will spread coronavirus while using local gas stations, bait shops, liquor stores, lodging facilities and grocery stores.

"Health is more important than catching a couple of fish," Adee said.

In Grand Marais last week, similar-minded Cook County commissioners adopted a travel advisory that went as far as urging seasonal homeowners to "please stay at your primary residence at this time." Rena Rogers, interim county administrator, said people who love the region would serve it best by staying away or self-quarantining for 14 days upon arrival.

"It seems like a safe place right now," Rogers said, "but if we have people come up here to shelter and bring the virus … people are worried about that."

Thorpe, a fly-fishing guide who relishes the steelhead season, said a similar travel advisory by Bayfield County got him thinking about canceling his party on the Brule. After reflecting on the stay-at-home orders from both states, he disinvited his guests. He's staying home in south Minneapolis for the whole season.

"If you live a mile from the Brule, go fishing, good luck, have fun," Thorpe said. "But this is not going to be a steelhead season for me. It's not in the spirit of staying in place."

As part of the written COVID-19 stay-at-home order, Minnesotans have an exemption for outdoor recreation at a safe social distance while "walking, hiking, running, biking, driving for pleasure, hunting, or fishing." The DNR says the exempted activity should be "close to home."

Brian Spanovich, an electrician from Lakeville who fishes inland waters in central Minnesota, said people should make their own decisions about where to fish on state waters during the public health crisis. He said any angler who travels within reason and separates from other people shouldn't be judged as "not a good person."

hp HOME & GARDEN

‘Re-Wilding’ takes work

By DEAN FOSDICK
Associated Press

Dean Fosdick / AP

This assortment of foxgloves growing near Langley, Wash., is attractive to a variety of pollinators, especially bumblebees. The wildflowers were encouraged to bloom on a naturalized border between a fence and a lawn.

“Re-wilding” is the trend toward diversifying traditional lawns by putting in native plants that flower and fruit, boosting wildlife populations. It returns more control of the home landscape to nature.

But such conservation landscaping involves more than simply quitting pruning or letting properties go to seed.

“More often than not, that would result in a yard dominated by European turf grasses and invasive species,” said Dan Jaffe, horticulturist and propagator for the Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary in Wales, Mass.

“With good planning and establishment of a well-built landscape, it will mature into a space that can be easily cultivated with lazier gardening,” Jaffe said. “When it comes right down to it, naturalistic landscapes can be very low-maintenance.”

Find plants that are suited to your growing conditions and also to your goals for the site, Jaffe said.

“The great thing about working with native plants is that these are plants that will grow in any conditions you can think of,” he said. “There is no need to bring in problem plants when there are so many other options.”

Weigh the risks against the rewards. Blackberries and thistles, for example, are popular with pollinators but painful to handle and difficult to contain.

“Instead, work with wild strawberries or flowering raspberries (no thorns on those) or bee balm or meadowsweet, or one of the hundreds of other options,” Jaffe said.

Re-wilding also means relaxing maintenance standards. Don’t rush to clean up the garden at the end of the growing season. Seeds are food to wildlife, and lifeless hollow stems are shelter.

“Birds who eat seeds appreciate it when you don’t deadhead flowers,” said Theresa Badurek, a horticulture agent with the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. “Less frequent mowing allows pollinators to visit flowers before you mow. Less raking leaves provides habitat for beneficial insects.”

No area is too small.

“Every space we can provide for nature to blossom is valuable,” Badurek said. “Re-wilding containers can be helpful, especially if you need to add more flowers to the garden.”

Talk with your neighbors and check local ordinances before going ahead. Your project can be a positive influence on others, but let them know “the early stages of the work can look like a mess,” Jaffe said. “Converting a lawn into a meadow will look great in three years and fantastic in six, but the first year can be tough going.

“Without an explanation, neighbors could very well interpret your work as simple laziness instead of habitat construction,” he said.

Herbicides should be a last resort only, Jaffe said.

“Chemicals are a tool in the toolbox, and there are some situations where invasive species have taken such a foothold that the use of herbicides can mean the difference between a project being accomplished or failing,” he said.

People are beginning to realize that healthy landscapes with improved air and water quality benefit humans as much as they do wildlife, Jaffe said.

“Some folks are looking for lower maintenance landscapes and find that going wild is a good choice,” he said. “Other people are concerned about the changing climate and habitat loss. Still others look toward conservation as something anyone can do instead of being restricted to the untouched portions of the country and only accomplished by professional conservationists.”

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Stylish, functional design

This three-bedroom country house plan greets you with a wrapping front porch for tons of curb appeal and a welcoming vibe. Inside, the great room flows seamlessly into the kitchen and dining area.

Homeowners can host relaxed parties at the kitchen’s large island. The master suite boasts a spacious walk-in closet, modern shower, soaking tub and dual sinks. Year-round outdoor living is made easy with a screened porch just off the dining room.

To build this home, order a complete set of construction documents by calling 866-228-0193 or visit www.ePlans.com/collection/house-of-the-week. Enter the design number to locate the plan and view more images and details.

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– www.ePlans.com

Photo provided / www.ePlans.com / Ashley Avila Photography

Curb appeal is front and center with a gable roof and plenty of windows. See more images online at www.ePlans.com/collection/house-of-the-week.

Design number: 928-333

Bedrooms: 3

Baths: 3 1/2

Square footage: 2,332 square feet

Dimensions: 120-feet by 68-feet-9-inches

Framing: 2-by-6

Norman Winter / TNS

Sweet N Neat Scarlet tomato plants may be just what you need in the porch patio or deck.

Your 2020 victory garden

By NORMAN WINTER
On Gardening (TNS)

Shazam! All of a sudden everyone is thinking about growing a vegetable garden.

Essentials disappearing from the local supermarket is at best a wake-up call. One thing for certain now that families are all together – there is no better way to teach children a little horticulture, pollination and where food comes from than a vegetable garden.

If you want to, call it a corona victory garden or a victory garden 2020.

You are probably thinking you have no plot, and besides don’t you need an acre?

The answer is, no you don’t need an acre. You can go small and intense. French intensive, square foot, interplanting, vertical, wide row, gardening by the yard and succession planting are all names for intensive gardening.

The purpose of intensive gardens is to harvest the most produce from a limited space. These spaces usually are small blocks, compared to traditional gardens, which consist of long, single rows widely spaced. Much of the traditional garden area is taken by the space between the rows.

An intensive garden minimizes wasted space, but there is a limit on how much you can reduce open space. When you go beyond those limits, you open the door to control nightmares from disease and insects.

Intensive gardens concentrate efforts to create better yields with less labor. Fewer pathways and closely spaced plants often mean less weeding, but the work usually must be done by hand. Some gardeners prefer using machine cultivation on long rows to hand weeding.

Soil preparation is the key to successful intensive gardening. Plants must have adequate nutrients and water to grow together so closely. Providing fertilizers and irrigation helps, but there’s no substitute for deep, fertile soil, high in organic matter – just 3 to 5 percent would probably give you that proverbial green thumb.

Humus rich soil will hold extra nutrients, and existing elements locked up in the soil are released by the actions of earthworms, microorganisms and humic acids.

Nurseries and garden centers have specially prepared mixes that are excellent to use alone or incorporated in your soil. Use landscape timbers or railroad cross ties to enclose your bed. A 6- to 8-inch high bed would be ideal. I even bought a kit from a local grocery store.

A good intensive garden requires early, thorough planning to make the best use of time and space in the garden. Consider the interrelationships of plants before planting, including nutrient needs, shade tolerance, above and below ground growth patterns and preferred growing season.

It is suggested if possible to run your rows north to south which allow for most sun exposure,

The raised growing bed is the foundation of an intensive garden. Several beds allow the gardener to focus soil preparation in small areas, resulting in effective use of soil amendments and creating an ideal environment for vegetable growth.

Beds are generally 4 to 5 feet wide and segregated into blocks. This allows gardeners to work from either side of the bed, reducing the compaction on the soil.

The first step in deciding what to grow is to select what your family likes to eat. Next, look at what costs you the most at the market per pound.

Tomatoes, green onions, leaf lettuce, turnips, summer squash, beans, beets, carrots, cucumbers, peppers, broccoli, head lettuce and cauliflower are all among the top 15 economic crops to grow.

Consult your local county agent for recommendations on spacing for interplanting. In general, however, add the inches of recommended spacing for the two crops to be planted together and then divide the sum by two.

Prime example, tomatoes have a 24-inch spacing and leaf lettuce has a 4-inch space recommendation. The total of 28 inches divided by two means that you can plant your leaf lettuce 14 inches from your tomatoes.

A caged tomato surrounded by lettuce sounds like a good salad combination. By all means, grow up!

What I mean by that is take every opportunity to grow vertically with pole beans, cucumbers and more.

Try a smaller garden but one that is intensive and your success may be greater. Even if you live in an apartment you can grow and harvest a bounty of produce from baskets and containers.

If you are blessed with a large plot, then grow enough to share. Your local garden center will have everything you need from seeds to transplants, soil and fertilizer and best of all, expertise.

Norman Winter is a horticulturist, garden speaker and the author of “Tough-as-Nails Flowers for the South” and “Captivating Combinations: Color and Style in the Garden.” Follow him on Facebook @NormanWinterTheGardenGuy.

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TV

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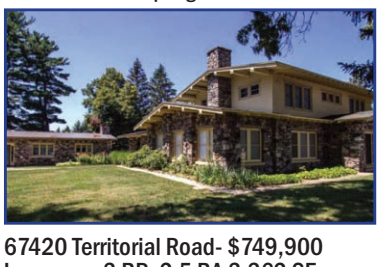

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Gasoline is not the lubricant Honda was looking for

DEAR CAR TALK: I own a 2014 Honda Accord LX, and it has been a very good car. So good that I am thinking about buying a new Accord.

At least I was thinking about a new Accord until I started seeing stories about the engine oil being diluted by gasoline.

This does not sound like a good situation, but I am wondering how bad it really is. I would love to hear your take on this. Thanks! – Joseph

DEAR JOSEPH: While Honda's engineering is generally excellent, they seem to have stumbled with their 1.5 liter turbo engine.

There are a number of complaints about gasoline diluting the oil. That's not a good situation. Gasoline is not nearly as good a lubricant as oil is, so this has the potential to shorten the life of the engine. Not to mention, it'll cause your car to smell like the corner Exxon station.

Ray Magliozzi
Car Talk

The gasoline fumes that mix with the oil are supposed to evaporate and be expunged from the crankcase. And apparently, in cold weather – or if the car is rarely driven long enough to really heat up – the gasoline condenses and builds up in the crankcase until your dipstick reads: "Whoa! Drain out a quart."

Honda says the problem is limited to 2016-18 Civics and 2017-18 CR-Vs with that 1.5L engine. They also say that it's limited to cold weather states. And they've offered a fix and an extra year of limited warranty coverage to buyers in 21 states.

But we've certainly seen similar complaints from owners of late model Accords with the 1.5L engine. And Consumer Reports says they received complaints of oil dilution in summer conditions from California and Texas.

So we'd urge caution.

If you really want another Accord, one option would be to get the 2.0 liter engine instead. It's a pricey option, but we haven't seen complaints of oil dilution for that engine.

And as you know, other than the fact that you'd have to join OPEC as an oil producer if you have the 1.5L engine, the Accord is an excellent car.

DEAR CAR TALK: I taught auto mechanics for more than 30 years to high school students. In the 1980s, when I was explaining how the resistors in the fan blower worked, I compared it to a hair dryer.

That gave me an idea. Why not add a hair dryer type of heating element in the car's ductwork for instant heat to the passenger compartment? It could reduce or turn off as engine heat increased until it was no longer needed.

I didn't pursue this idea because batteries back then were overworked beyond their capacity and heating elements draw a lot of power from the battery.

Fast-forward almost 30 years to today, and you have remote starting devices that are installed for hefty prices. These wear out engines, pollute, use gasoline so reduce gas mileage and have too many parts that can fail.

Today you have heated seats, heated rearview mirrors and mega sound systems guzzling up power from our batteries, so they can't use "the battery can't handle it" anymore as an excuse.

I would guess that installing my system in the air duct would cost less than $20 at the factory and cost little to operate.

Can it be done? – Raymond

DEAR RAYMOND: Anything can be done. I mean, look – they let me write a newspaper column. That doesn't mean it should be done.

A typical hair dryer uses about 1,200 watts. And realistically, you'd need at least a pair of them. So you're talking about 200 amps at 12 volts. That's a pretty significant load on the battery.

It wouldn't kill the battery in 10 or 15 minutes, but if your battery were old or marginal, and it was a cold day (which it obviously would be), you could weaken it to the point that you'd have trouble starting the car. And wouldn't that stink?

Of course, once the car is running, you could pull 200 amps from the alternator and the battery combined, and that wouldn't be a problem. So it could be a way to get some heat right away, once you start the car, but before the engine is producing usable heat.

The larger issue is that heating the air is the least efficient way to keep the driver warm.

Take a typical sedan. Say it has about 20 cubic feet of interior volume. You're taking up about 4 of those cubic feet, and yet you're wasting a ton of energy heating up the other 16 cubic feet to 70 degrees.

In contrast, radiant heating (seat heaters, steering wheel heaters, rear window defroster) use far less power, and deliver the heat precisely where it's needed: to your tuchus and key surrounding areas.

But here's the good news, Raymond: Your idea actually makes more sense for electric cars, which are getting more popular every day. Here's why. Electric cars don't have internal combustion engines, which give off heat. So they already use electric heating elements to heat up the cabin.

And on a cold day, with a simple remote control, you could run the heating element while the car is still plugged into its charger. That would preheat the cabin without eating into the car's battery reserve and driving range.

So it's a great idea, Raymond. You were just 35 years ahead of your time and working on the wrong propulsion technology.

Got a question about cars? Write to Ray Magliozzi in care of King Features, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803, or email him by visiting the Car Talk website: www.cartalk.com.

Part II: The perfectly styled automobile

On March 28 on these pages, I picked several cars built in reasonably high numbers from the latter half of the 20th century that I consider to be perfectly styled automobiles. My picks included the 1961 Jaguar XK-E, the 1961 Lincoln Continental, 1963 Pontiac Grand Prix and the 1960 Chevy Corvair. In today's column I share a few more examples of automobiles that somehow managed to survive the wrath of corporate bean-counters and higher up executives who have good taste only in their mouths. Somehow these cars managed to arrive at dealership lots with exquisite looks and they met all the bona fides needed to become design classics in my estimation. I also remind readers that these cars are nearly perfect in my estimation. I would make very few or no changes to improve them.

Dar Davis

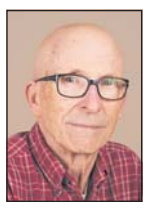

Photo provided

Ford Motor Co., to compete more successfully with GM in the 1950s, introduced the ultra luxurious Continental Mark II to great acclaim. But with a price tag of $10,000, it met with little success. Nevertheless the effort resulted in a beautiful, nearly hand-built luxury coupe that appealed to Dar, and to folks who would otherwise have bought a Rolls Royce. Only 3,014 were sold in two years of production.

Let's go in chronological order. Maybe it's because my Grandpa Barber and my brother Frank both owned one and it was the year that I recall having become an automotive nutcase while still in country school, but I'm a huge fan of the 1955 Chevrolet. It was all-new, from its innovative small block V-8 under the hood to its svelte and lovely sheet metal. From its Ferrari-inspired crosshatch rectangular grille to its new wrap-around windshield, everything about GM's entry level car shouted new and "buy me!" Grandpa Barber and brother Frank both opted for the mid-level Two Ten post sedans, but a lot of people went with the top level BelAir and ordered either the hardtop or the convertible with that "Hot One" new V-8 engine. While the BelAir has all the chrome trim and bling, I actually love the lowly One Fifty best. It's super clean and smoothly styled body is entirely free of chrome with the exception of its bumpers, grille, hood ornament and the headlight/parking/taillight trim pieces. It's divine.

The car was way out of my price range, actually most people's price range, but it certainly met my standards of a perfectly designed automobile. Ford Motor's Continental Division in 1956 introduced the remarkable Mark II. The new model picked up where the Mark I Continental left off after it was discontinued after 1948. Henry Ford's son, William Clay Ford, was in charge of the division and he oversaw the design and assembly of a truly beautiful, ultra-luxury two-door hardtop that set a buyer back by an astonishing $10,000. This back in the day when you could buy a Ford Mainline 2-door post sedan for under $2,000. In its two years of production only 3,014 were built but, oh my, how nice it was to feast one's eyes on Mr. Ford's creation. Too bad it was reported that the company lost $1,000 on each one sold. I can assure you I never saw one in person in Lapeer County where I grew up. A terrible shame, that. I imagine quite a few were spotted on Santa Monica Boulevard in Southern California. The automobile featured timeless styling with a very formal roofline (think early Thunderbirds), frenched headlights, wraparound tail lights and a trunk with a built-in shape of a continental tire. Nary a thing needed to be changed to improve this masterpiece.

Retired GM designer Bill Porter is credited with several of GM's nicer looking cars. Readers who were annual visitors to the local Lake Bluff Concours may remember that Bill was the event's featured designer in 2013. He is a truly great gentleman. His success with the 1968 Pontiac Tempest/GTO and the 1997 Buick Fifth Avenue is noteworthy for sure but perhaps his best effort was on Pontiac's second generation pony car the Firebird that was introduced in mid 1970. Both the Firebird and its corporate sibling, the 1970½ Chevy Camaro (they shared the same platform), are simply splendid looking. Lean and lithe, the unadorned slippery-shaped two-door semi-fastbacks just looked right, from any angle. Very European in execution, the clean-sheet efforts enabled designers to lower the height of the cowl (unlike the first generation cars that were based on the 1968 Chevy Nova) and give the cars a "fluid" look so popular on GM cars designed under GM VP Bill Mitchell. Not surprising, the sheet metal of the two sporty coupes would remain pretty much unchanged for the next 12 years. An amazing statistic and sure-fire proof that the styling of the two was timeless and it explains why the coupes are valued for their looks by car collectors to this day.

One can not list outstanding looking cars without mentioning GM's three E-body efforts in the 1960s. Few can argue that GM's VP of Styling Bill Mitchell hit a number of design home runs during his career. In addition to the previously mentioned 1963 Pontiac Grand Prix and 1970½ F-body pony car twins that were introduced under his auspices, there were also three full-size luxury coupes brought to market to compete with Ford's astonishingly popular four-place Thunderbird: the 1963 Buick Riviera and the 1966 Olds Toronado and Cadillac Eldorado (the '66 Riv was special, too.) Mitchell made it known he hated designing small cars but he excelled at creating great looking full size luxury coupes. First with the stunning 1963 Buick Riviera and then later, after the Riviera's success, with the surprisingly pure Toronado and Eldorado, Mitchell set the bar high for other auto competitors to compete successfully. Words are not needed to explain why these forces of nature are on my list. Little unnecessary chrome or geegaw (hidden headlights excepted), ideal proportions with long hood, short deck and flowing lines that command the eyeballs. These cars are perfect. In fact Sergio Pininfarina, of the famous Italian design house, called the original 1963 Riviera "one of the most beautiful American cars ever built." Enough said.

Another design triumph that made my college student heart beat fast was introduced in 1962 by Studebaker. I'm speaking of internationally known designer Raymond Loewy's 1963 Studebaker Avanti fiberglass sports coupe. Created in just a few weeks by Loewy and a crew of three designers in the California desert, it would not save Studebaker but its design goodness and purity has stood the test of time. Created as if carved from one piece of wood, the flowing lines of this semi-fastback coupe still looks perfect today. Other than the funky off-center, driver-oriented hood scoop, there is nary an unnecessary design element on the whole car. The below-the-bumper grille at the front, the side view coke-bottle shape and the overall execution is ideal. It deserves a special medal!

If I had the space I'd also want to give kudos to and comment on all the Virgil Exner-designed 1957 Chrysler Corporation finned cars, the 1953 Euro-styled, Raymond Loewy-penned 1953 Studebaker Starliner coupe, plus the 1959 delta-winged Buick, the stunning 1960 Chrysler New Yorker and most 1961 GM full-size cars.

Indeed, there have been some really unattractive cars in the past; some bad actors that made me ask how they could have been approved for production. They were so unattractive that I wanted to cover my eyes when they passed by on the highway. Some I've mentioned before on these pages like the 2000-2005 Chevy Monte Carlo, 1958 Olds, Buick and Ford and many others. But the cars that I've discussed today and last week may not be on everyone's list of beautiful works of automotive art, but I'm pretty sure they are on most. Remember, if you don't recall what some of the cars I've touted look like, go online and ask Google.

■ Trivia answer: GM's Cadillac division introduced the $13,000 Cadillac Eldorado Brougham in 1957. Seven hundred and four of the luxury sedans were assembled in 1957-1958. The production of the 1959-60 Eldorado Brougham was farmed out to Italy's pininfarina with production of only 200 vehicles through 1960.

Trivia quesiton

The $10,000 Continental Mark II luxury coupe forced what company with what model to join the fray in 1957and make a pitch for the Rolls Royce buyer?

Dar Davis founded the Lake Bluff Concours and chaired the event for many years. He has been writing this column since 1999. He can be reached at drd43@sbcglobal.net.

BEHIND THE WHEEL

Keep your car clean to reduce risk from coronavirus

By RYAN ZUMMALLEN
Edmunds (AP)

The spread of the novel coronavirus, and its associated COVID-19 disease, is made worse because it is highly contagious. Since vehicle interiors are essentially small contained spaces, it is important to take steps to reduce the risk of contracting the virus while driving or riding inside.

When it comes to vehicles, washing your hands thoroughly is one of the most effective ways to prevent transmission of the virus, which is spread from small droplets from the nose or mouth when an infected person coughs, sneezes or exhales.

But proper cleaning and disinfecting are also advised. That's because the virus can exist on a variety of surfaces, sometimes even days after contagious droplets were planted there. Our experts recommend these tips to increase your safety during the outbreak.

Be prepared

While it's important that the inside of your vehicle is clean, it's just as important that your hands are free of germs, too.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends washing your hands for at least 20 seconds before or after eating, using the restroom, coughing or sneezing, caring for others, and leaving your house.

Cleaning your vehicle should also be on the list. It may also be a good idea to use disposable or designated gloves while cleaning to prevent the spread of the coronavirus inside.

Limiting your trips outside is the most effective method of ensuring you won't contract the coronavirus or spread it to others. Restrict your movement to essential tasks only. This will reduce the spread of germs into your vehicle and prevent you from carrying them to the outside world or back inside your home.

Use the right tools

The right disinfectants can kill the coronavirus so it doesn't live on surfaces such as rubber, plastic, aluminum and leather. Most common household cleaners will work.

The American Chemistry Council has a helpful list of specific EPA-approved products for use against the coronavirus. We recommend keeping a tube of disinfectant wipes in your vehicle for regular use.

Check to ensure that the cleaners you're using are safe for the surfaces in your car. Some disinfectants can dry out leather. A safer option would be to use a mild soap and water, then apply a leather conditioner to protect those surfaces.

This option will not kill germs as well as harsher disinfectants, but it will greatly reduce them and help prevent spread.

Focus on touchpoints

The main areas that need to be cleaned are obvious. Anything inside the car that your fingers touch should be cleaned: the steering wheel, gear shifter, lane change and windshield wiper stalks, door handles, radio knobs, infotainment controllers, storage bins and seat belts. The CDC recommends cleaning touched surfaces daily.

One other area might not be so immediately evident: The top of the dashboard is a prime spot for harboring such microorganisms, according to Charles P. Gerba, a professor of microbiology and public health at the University of Arizona.

Recirculating air swirls up against the windshield and sticks to the dash, where it can be distributed throughout the cabin, Gerba said. Cleaning that spot reduces risk.

Children and the elderly

People who are regularly in contact with both children and the elderly should take extra precautions, even if those two groups are not sharing the same airspace at the same time. That's because children are often less careful about hygiene and cleanliness, while the elderly are more susceptible to any germs left behind.

People older than 60 and those with underlying conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory disease and cancer have the highest risk of severe disease and death from COVID-19, according to the World Health Organization.

But proper and regular cleaning inside the car can greatly reduce the risk of passing the virus on from children and others.

Maintaining cleanliness in your car is a small act that can go a long way toward the greater good. If you are going to take trips outside, do everything you can to slow or prevent the transmission of the coronavirus.

Disinfecting your steering wheel over and over again might seem tedious and unnecessary, but it is likely to save lives.

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LEGALS

STATE OF MICHIGAN COUNTY OF BERRIEN TRIAL COURT- FAMILY DIVISION

PUBLICATION OF HEARING

CASE NO. 2018-0096-NA-D
Courthouse,
811 Port Street,
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

TO: Justin Fedore the Legal Putative father of KAYDYN FEDORE (2/10/09) KOLTYN FEDORE (5/31/10) KYLER FEDORE (10/20/11) KEEGYN FEDORE (12/17/12)
Mother of child:
Kortnee Gross-Payton
Child's date of birth:
Child's place of birth:
Niles, Michigan

A petition requesting the court to take jurisdiction of the above named minor(s) has been filed in this court.

A hearing on the petition will be conducted by the court on 5/26/2020 at 1:30 p.m. in the Berrien County Courthouse, St. Joseph, Michigan, 49085, Courtroom 327. If you are or may be the natural father, you should appear at this hearing to express your interest, if any, in the minor.
Your failure to appear at this hearing will constitute a
a. denial of interest in the minor,
b. waiver of notice for all subsequent hearings,
c. waiver of a right to appointment of an attorney, and
d. **could result in termination of your parental rights.**

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that you personally appear before the court at the time and place stated above.
This hearing may result in the **termination of your parental rights.**

Date: April 1, 2020

Jennifer L. Smith/ P56684,
Family Division Judge

Legal Notice
Consumers Energy, 1945 W. Parnall Rd, Jackson, MI announces that it is planning to apply a herbicide to its right-of-way in order to maintain the reliability of its power system.
The herbicide will be applied with hand pumped-backpack style sprayers. The crews will selectively apply herbicides to woody tree species throughout the right-of-way as needed. Crop areas and gardens will be avoided.
Herbicides that will be used are a combination of the following: Garlon 3A (active ingredient: Triclopyr), Milestone (AI: Aminopyralid), Escort XP (AI: Metsulfuron Methyl), Garlon 4 Ultra (AI: Triclopyr), and Stalker (AI: Isopropylamine Salt of Imazapyr), with 85% to 94% water as a diluent.
The application is scheduled for April 6th through December 31st in Van Buren County and Allegan County.
All treatments will be completed according to label requirements and all state and federal requirements. Please keep people and pets off treated areas until sprays have dried.
There are no restrictions on your use of treated area after the material has dried on the plant.
Thunder Bay Tree Service has been contracted to perform this work. Any questions should be directed to:
Thunder Bay Tree Service
Attn: Austin Gilmet
1172 Halley Rd.
Alpena, MI 49707
1-877-333-8950

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HOROSCOPE

By EUGENIA LAST

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

Moderation will be necessary this year if you want to avoid emotional, physical or financial troubles. Set guidelines that will help keep you on course and living within your means. You can accomplish a lot if you use your time and effort wisely. Discipline will encourage fitness and good health.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Take control of your future. Put your financial needs first and ease stress. Rebuild and update your resources to fit current trends. Positive change requires planning and preparation.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Change begins within and shouldn't require you to spend a lot of cash. Expand your mind, focus on personal growth and spend more time with someone who brings out the best in you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Keep your thoughts to yourself and avoid getting into a battle with someone who doesn't share your opinions. Take a disciplined approach to health and fitness. Romance is favored.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Explore unfamiliar territory. Try new things and meet interesting people. A cultural event will change your perspective regarding people who come from different backgrounds.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Stick to what and who you know. Avoid getting into emotional battles you cannot win. Pay attention to the way you look and feel. Make health a priority.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Grant yourself a well-deserved break. Spend time doing something you've always wanted to do. A day trip will lead to a positive lifestyle shift.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Make a positive change at home. Do the work yourself to avoid expensive expenditures. You can commit to someone and put a new beginning in play. Romance is in the stars.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Be careful what you promise someone. You should offer only suggestions when someone asks for help. You owe it to yourself to do what makes you happy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) A lifestyle change will be a step in the right direction. Back away from people who try to manipulate you or pressure you into doing things that you shouldn't do.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Refuse to let a last-minute change ruin your day. Do what's best for yourself, and don't feel guilty for not giving in to other people's demands. An unexpected opportunity will come your way.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Put more emphasis on how you feel and on things that you enjoy doing. A reunion or reconnection with someone from your past will be memorable. Romance is favored.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Spend time with people who can offer you mental stimulation. An intellectual challenge will promote greater creativity and lead to a good plan. Set a tight budget before you begin.

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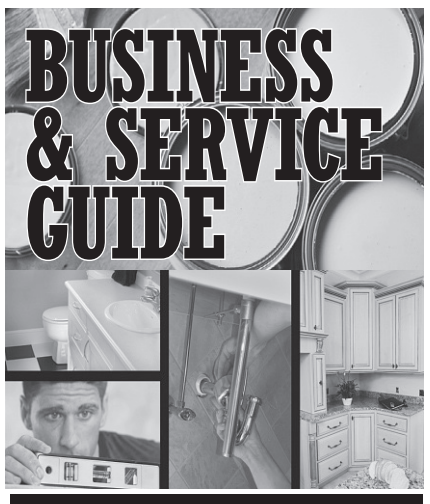

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4/5/20

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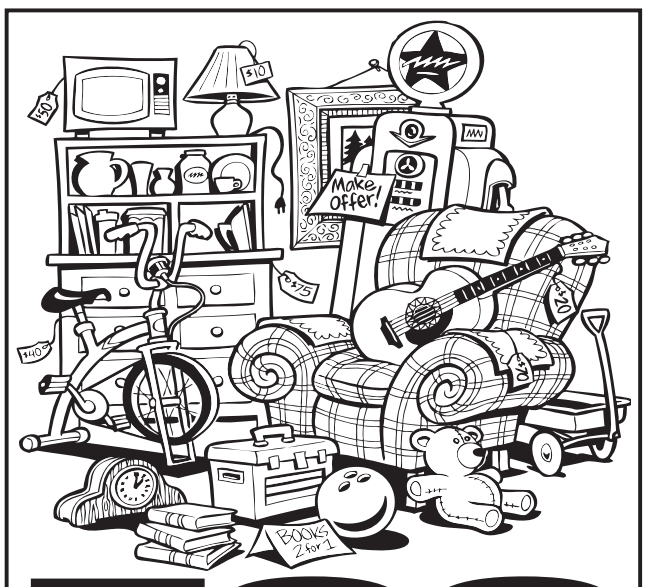

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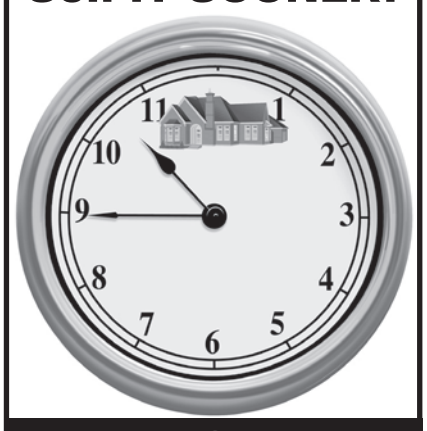

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HOROSCOPE

By EUGENIA LAST

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

A minimalist approach to how you think, live and do things will help turn this year into a huge success. You will gain momentum as you lessen your stress and focus more on what's truly important to you. Life is simple if you remove the complexities and chaos.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Have more faith in yourself and what you have to offer. Physical fitness and personal improvement will boost your confidence and morale. Romance is favored.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Inconsistency will not help you get things done. If you have doubts, ask for help. An event that brings you in contact with people from different backgrounds will be enlightening.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Exercise will ease stress. Start a project that encourages you to incorporate a healthier lifestyle. Avoid situations that allow someone to take advantage of you. Romance looks promising.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Someone you encounter will change the way you feel about life, love and happiness. Make your home a place of comfort and open your doors to friends and family.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Check out the online job market or research new ways to improve your lifestyle. A meaningful relationship will take an unexpected turn. Don't promise something that you can't deliver.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Don't labor over what you can't do, and instead focus on what you can. Changes that are within your means can improve the way you spend your time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Update documents that need adjusting. Property investments, insurance, taxes or inheritance matters will come saddled with time-consuming responsibility. Don't take on too much or make expenditures you cannot afford. Romance is encouraged.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Don't feel the need to make a change before it's needed. Time is on your side, and you have more options than you realize. Research will lead to a unique discovery.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Dealing with friends and family will pose problems. Stick to the script to avoid having your message twisted. Truth and words matter. Make your position and opinions clear.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Look at a property, update your current living situation or sign a personal contract that will improve your life. Stick to a budget, regardless of how tempted you are by an offer someone makes.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Walk away from unpredictable situations. You can make personal changes that will enhance your appearance or the way you live. A romantic gesture will improve your life.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) You'll see things differently today if you keep an open mind and listen to what others have to say. A contribution someone makes will give you hope for a better future.

CROSSWORD

Crossword Answers D3

Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

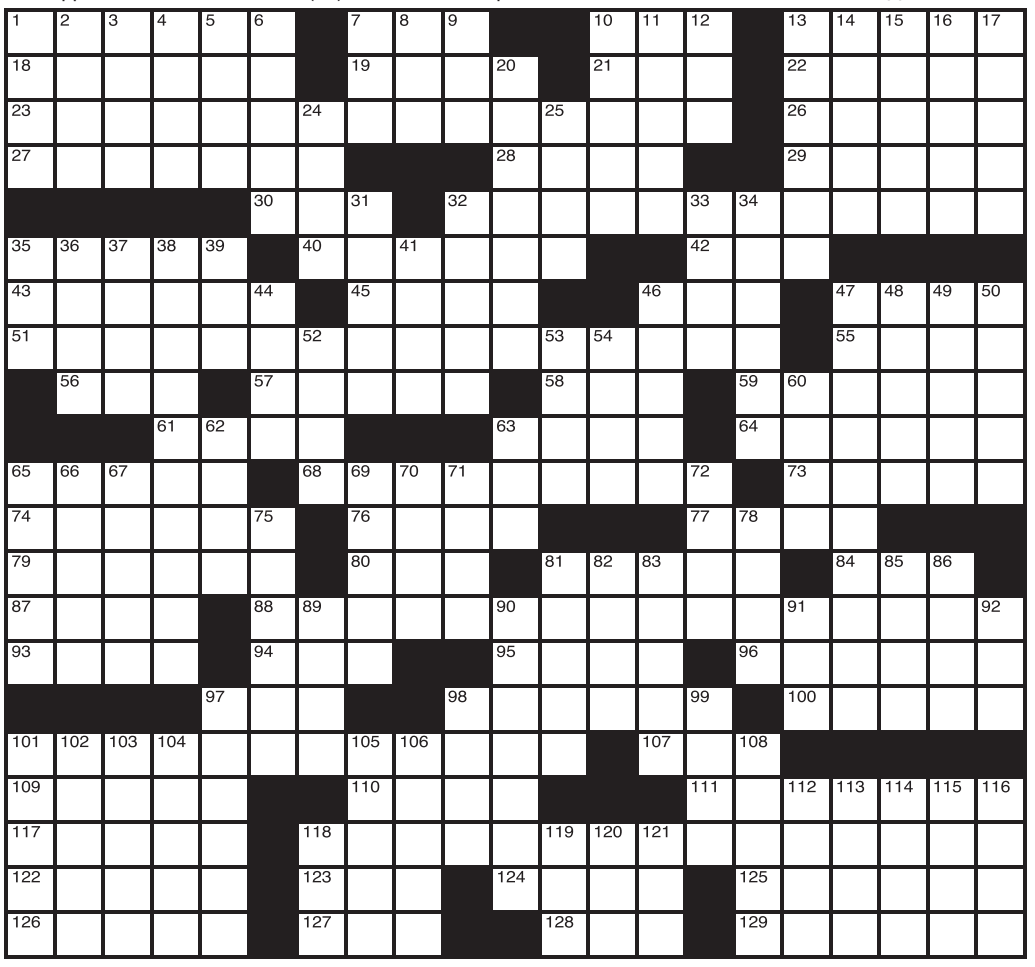
"THE OTHER HALF" By PAUL COULTER

ACROSS

1 Haunt
7 Mountain geography feature
10 Calypso offshoot
13 Pond buildup
18 Arrive onshore, perhaps
19 Slate or Salon
21 Plop or plunk preceder
22 Nobelist Bohr
23 Pasta on the barbie?
26 Bill with billions
27 Brother of Andrew the Apostle
28 Detective's aid
29 Chilled
30 Churchill's "so few": Abbr.
32 Like the club that Sinatra, Zappa and Capra belonged to?
35 Like Stout's Wolfe
40 Buxom
42 Hawaiian for "long"
43 Some summer shows
45 Each
46 Defense gp. since 1948
47 Give or take, say
51 "Don't forget we're having omelets"?
55 Sea of troubles
56 On the job, for short
57 Havens
58 Au pair's subj.
59 How early LPs were recorded
61 Roswell sightings, briefly
63 Johnson of "Laugh-In"
64 Peke or Pom
65 Angry reaction
68 Town group that decides what kinds of lawns are allowed?
73 Legal claims
74 Court contest
76 Ravel's "Gaspard de la __"
77 Banned fruit spray
79 Kiwi or rhea
80 "Anderson Cooper 360°" channel
81 Facebook option
84 "The Gold-Bug" monogram
87 School near Windsor
88 Unexpected eccentric skydiver?
93 Basic video game
94 "Saving Private Ryan" craft: Abbr.
95 "I, Claudius" role
96 "You left me no choice"
97 Mag man with a mansion
98 Square
100 Condition
101 Lucky one at the dairy raffle?
107 Splitting target
109 Opposite of love
110 Yours, to Yvette
111 Largest of the Balearic Islands
117 Lush
118 Sniffing the jalapeños?
122 Makes less unruly
123 Atlanta-based channel
124 Ad headline
125 Biblical miracle units
126 In check
127 Approx.
128 Nintendo's Super __
129 Suppressed anger

DOWN

1 Assns.
2 Diamond used as an abrasive
3 Tongue trouble?
4 W competitor
5 Bank deposit
6 Contemptuous look
7 Beauty
8 Doc bloc
9 __-12 Conference
10 "Cheers!"
11 Martial art with bamboo swords
12 "Exodus" hero
13 Sweater material
14 Jungle climber
15 Arrive
16 Smart follower
17 Saint-Saëns trio
20 Walk clumsily, like the Jabberwock slayer
24 Blah
25 Bank (on)
31 Features of beer and sponges
32 Pays
33 June 14 honoree
34 Fuddy-duddy
35 Uranus, e.g.
36 Ernie's pal
37 Obama attorney general Holder
38 Getting too many rays
39 Coll. major
41 WWI battleship Graf __
44 "Beat it!"
46 Leering sort
47 Colonial bloodsucker
48 Wear down
49 Wouldn't stop talking
50 Modern sources of reflections
52 Brewer's oven
53 Architect Saarinen
54 This, in Toledo
60 Kiara's mother in "The Lion King"
62 Dart
63 NYC dance troupe
65 Throat problem
66 "Cool beans!"
67 Austrian composer Webern
69 Full-length
70 "Babe" in the 1995 film, e.g.
71 Dry Spanish sherry
72 Sticker in a bar
75 Undercoat
78 Mormon prophet, or the Utah city named for him
81 One in a roundup
82 Pedestrian startler
83 In conflict with, with "of"
85 "Crimes and Misdemeanors" actor
86 Short stroke
89 Brief warning about the links?
90 Shows for the first time
91 "How's that again?" words
92 Help-wanted ad abbr.
97 Luther's crime, per the Diet of Worms
98 Carbon compound
99 Splendor
101 It's enough for Juan
102 WWII sub
103 Hitching aid
104 Where mariners go
105 Poetic feet
106 Bikini blast
108 Iona College athletes
112 Asian genre influenced by The Beatles
113 Australian export
114 Debussy's dream
115 Hudson Bay nation
116 NBA part: Abbr.
118 Canonized Mlle.
119 "At Seventeen" singer Janis
120 2019 MLB World Series champs' division
121 Some appliances



4/5/20 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2020 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

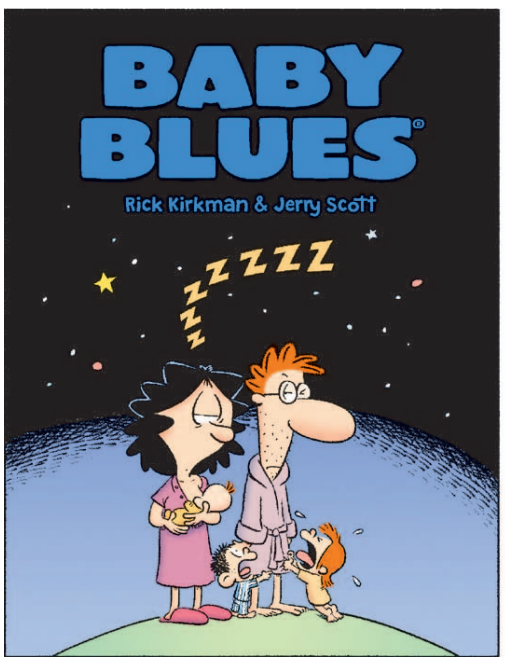
Classifieds Make A Cash Connection!

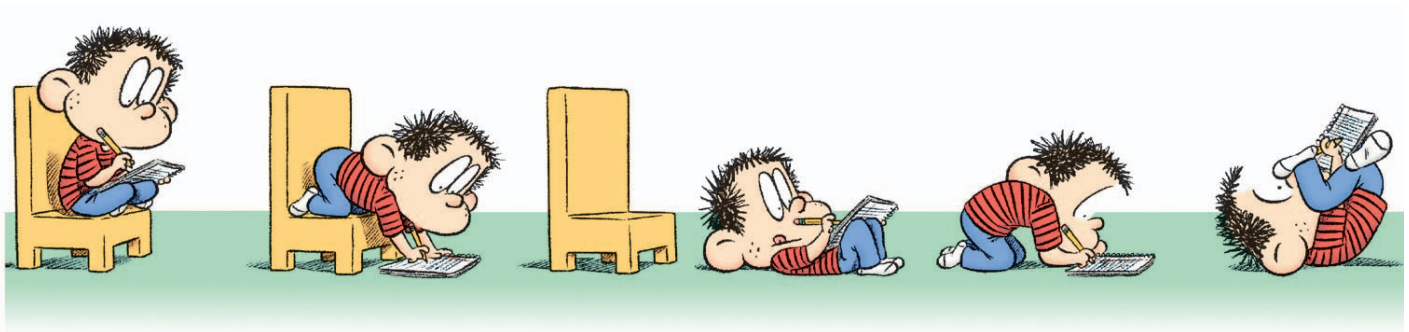
Weekend Comics

APRIL 4-5, 2020

BABY BLUES

Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott





STAY.
ONE MORE PARAGRAPH, AND I WOULD'VE BEEN OUT THE DOOR!
babyblues.com
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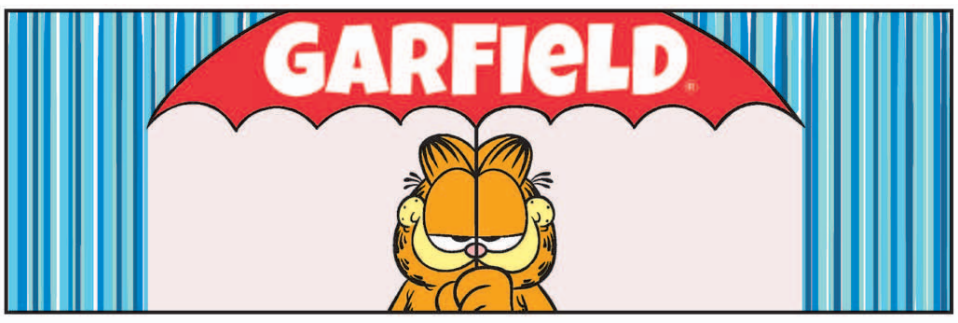
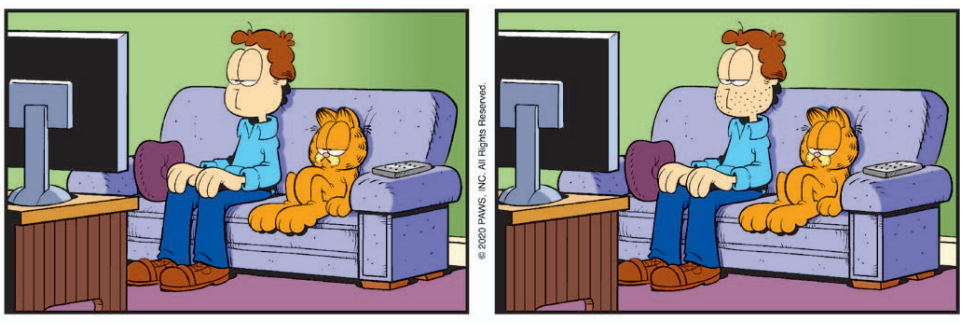
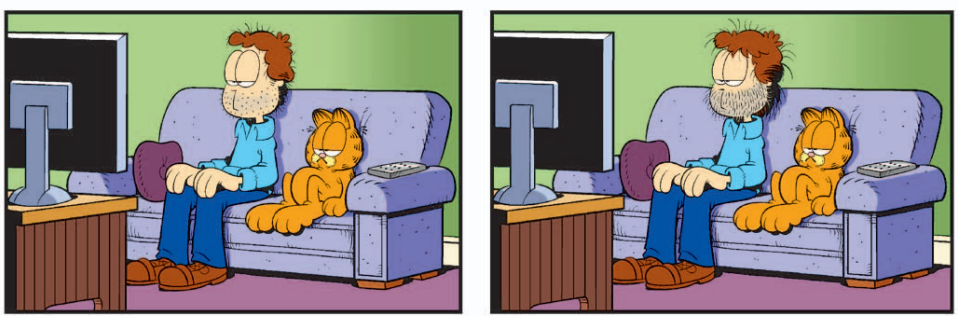
Kirkman & Scott 4-5

GARFIELD



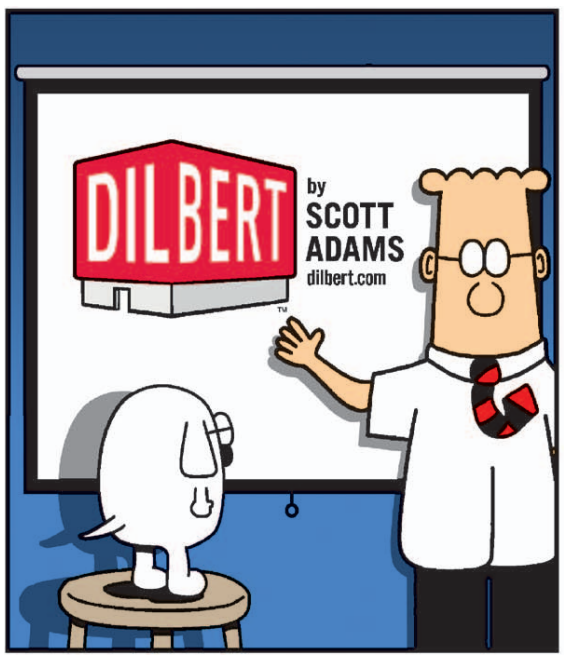


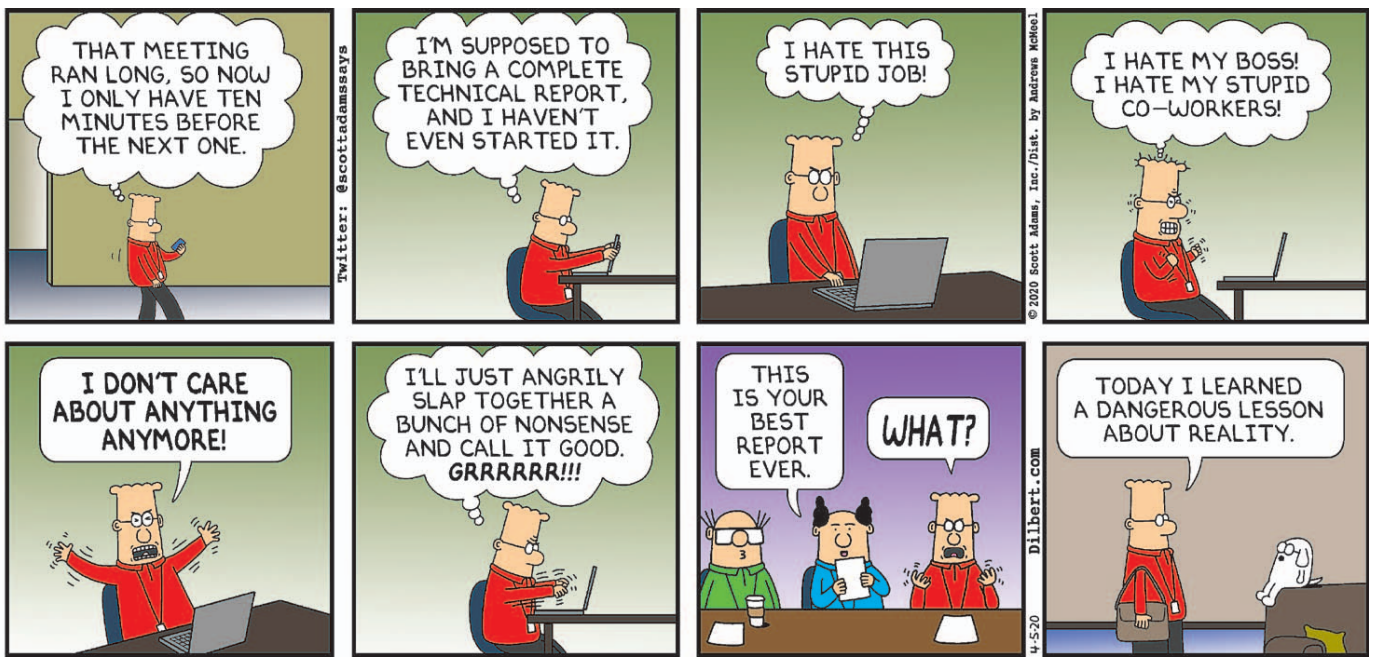


DILBERT

by SCOTT ADAMS

dilbert.com




THAT MEETING RAN LONG, SO NOW I ONLY HAVE TEN MINUTES BEFORE THE NEXT ONE.
Twitter: @scottadamssays
I'M SUPPOSED TO BRING A COMPLETE TECHNICAL REPORT, AND I HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED IT.
I HATE THIS STUPID JOB!
© 2020 Scott Adams, Inc./Dist. by Andrews McMeel
I HATE MY BOSS! I HATE MY STUPID CO-WORKERS!
I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING ANYMORE!
I'LL JUST ANGRILY SLAP TOGETHER A BUNCH OF NONSENSE AND CALL IT GOOD. GRRRRRR!!!
THIS IS YOUR BEST REPORT EVER.
WHAT?
Dilbert.com 4-5-20
TODAY I LEARNED A DANGEROUS LESSON ABOUT REALITY.

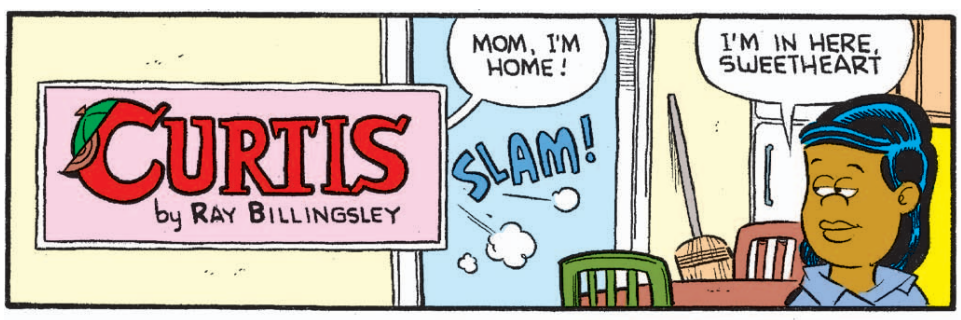
Dennis the Menace — Plate Positive

by Hank Ketcham

DENNIS, YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP A POSITIVE ATTITUDE.
I HAVE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE!
I'M POSITIVE...
Paramahansa Parmanand 4-5
...I WON'T LIKE IT!

CURTIS

by RAY BILLINGSLEY



HI, MRS. W!
HELLO, ANTHONY
HEART-THROB AND I STOPPED BY THE BAKERY
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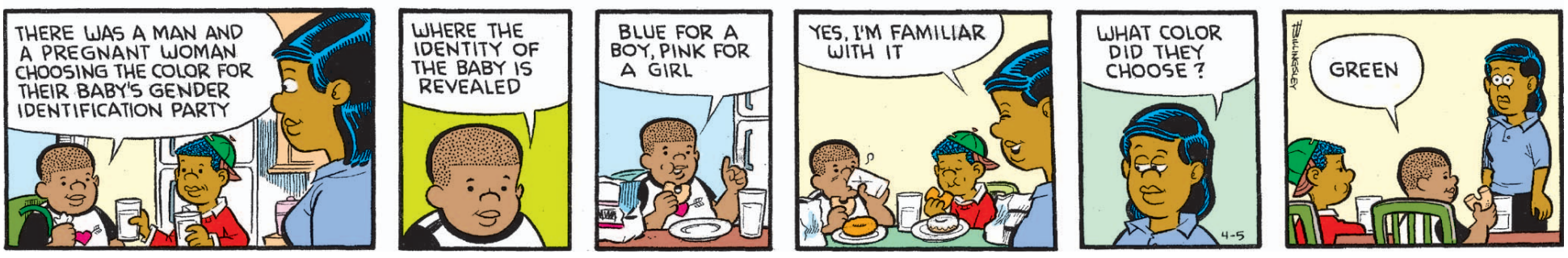
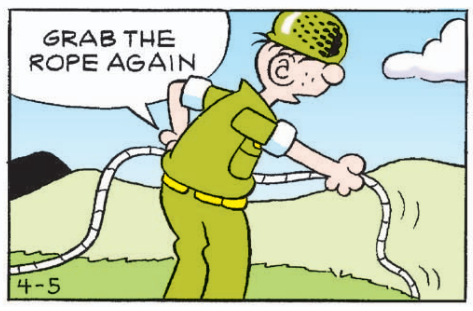
WOULD YOU LIKE A DONUT, MRS. W?
NO, THANK YOU, ANTHONY


THERE WAS A MAN AND A PREGNANT WOMAN CHOOSING THE COLOR FOR THEIR BABY'S GENDER IDENTIFICATION PARTY
WHERE THE IDENTITY OF THE BABY IS REVEALED
BLUE FOR A BOY, PINK FOR A GIRL
YES, I'M FAMILIAR WITH IT
WHAT COLOR DID THEY CHOOSE?
4-5
GREEN

Mort Walker's beetle bailey®



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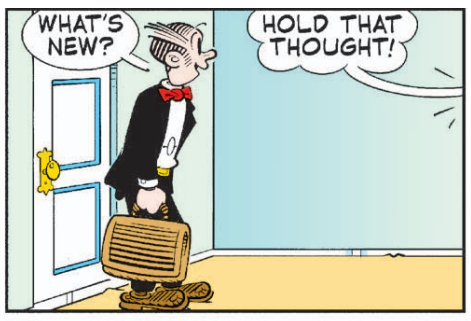
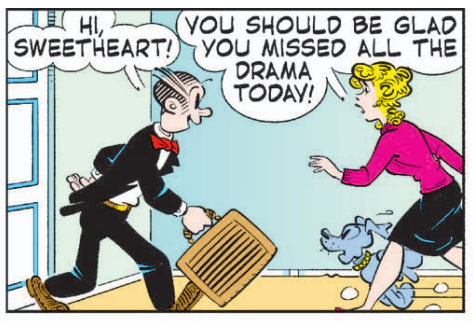
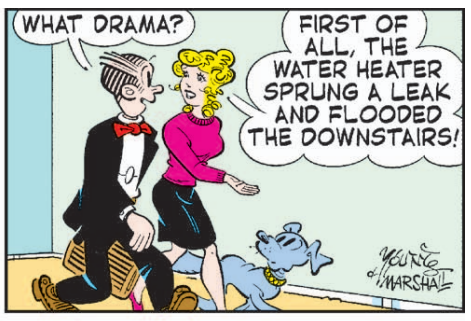
BLONDIE®

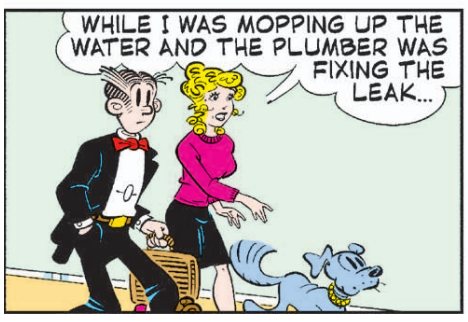
BY DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL

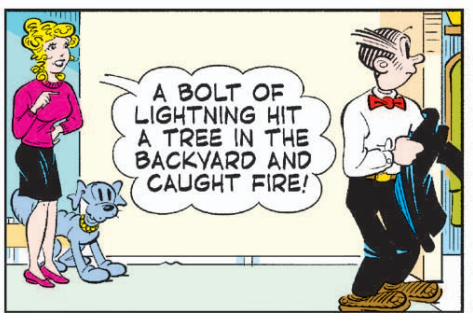


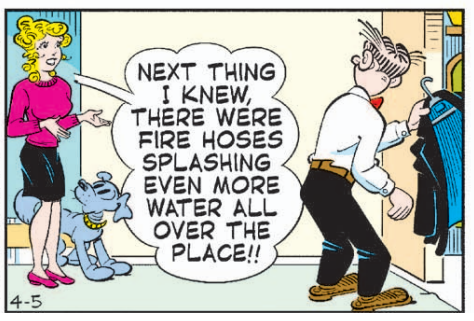




www.blondie.com







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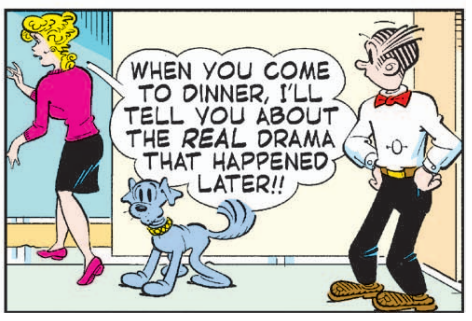
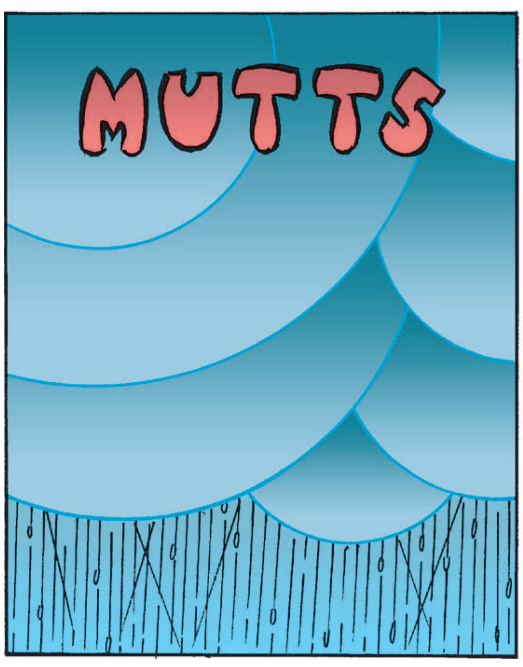


MUTTS



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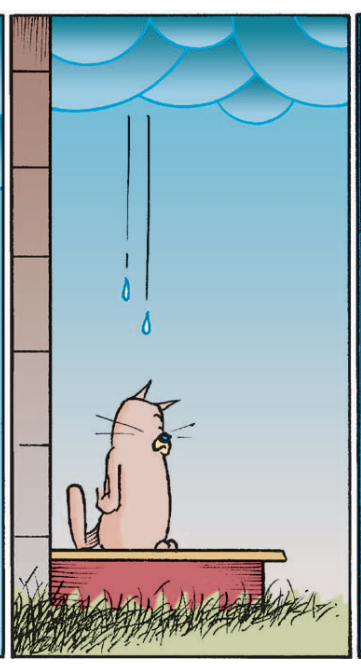
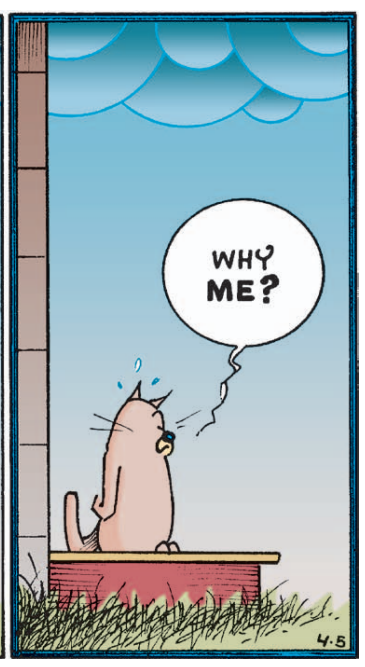
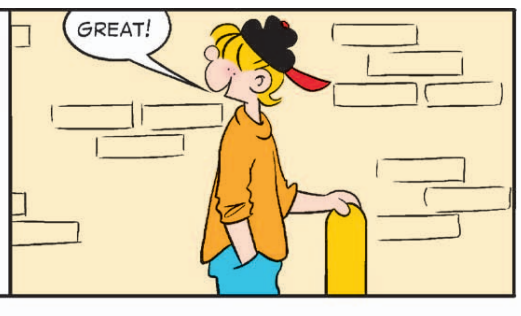
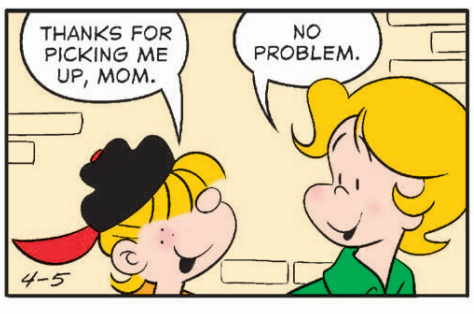




Hi and Lois

by BRIAN and GREG WALKER





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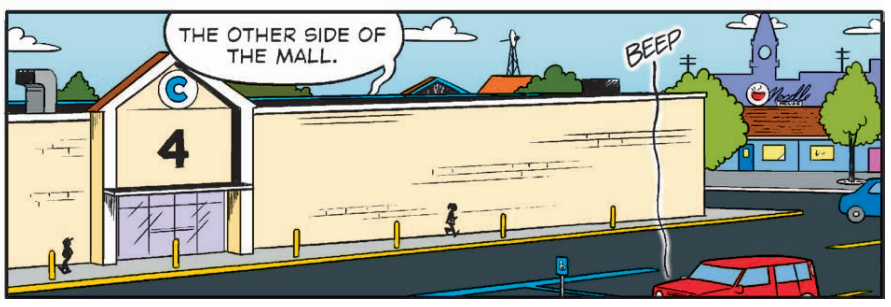
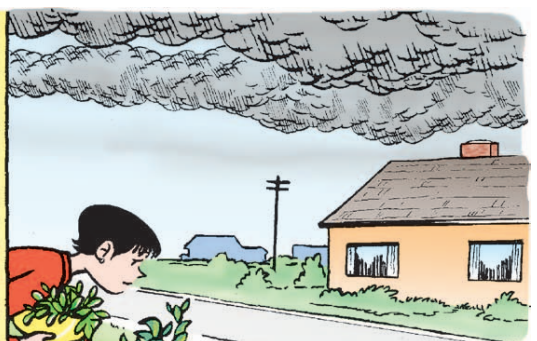


The FAMILY CIRCUS®

BY BIL KEANE



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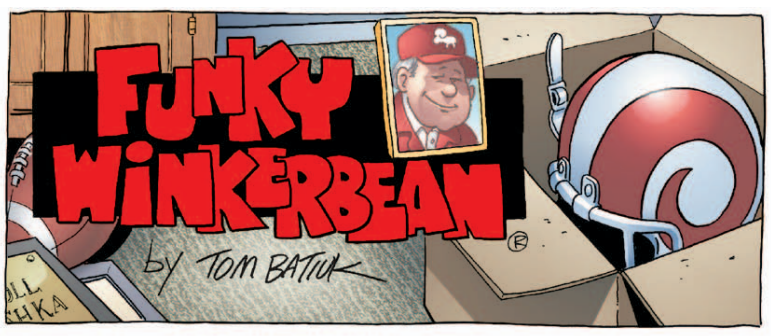
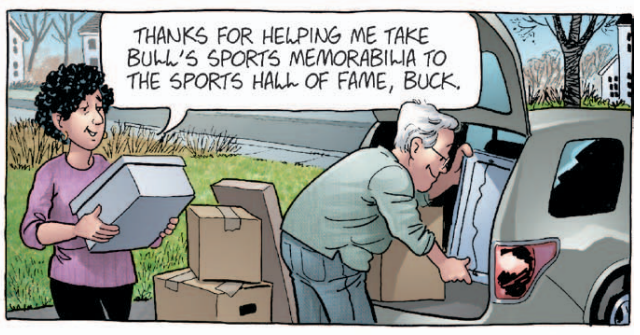
FUNKY WINKERBEAN

by TOM BATIUK





funkywinkerbean.comtoons

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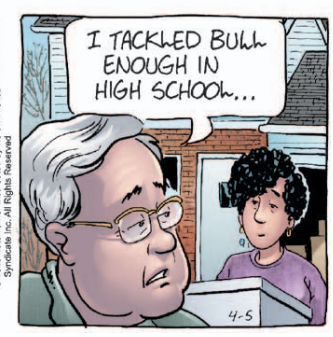
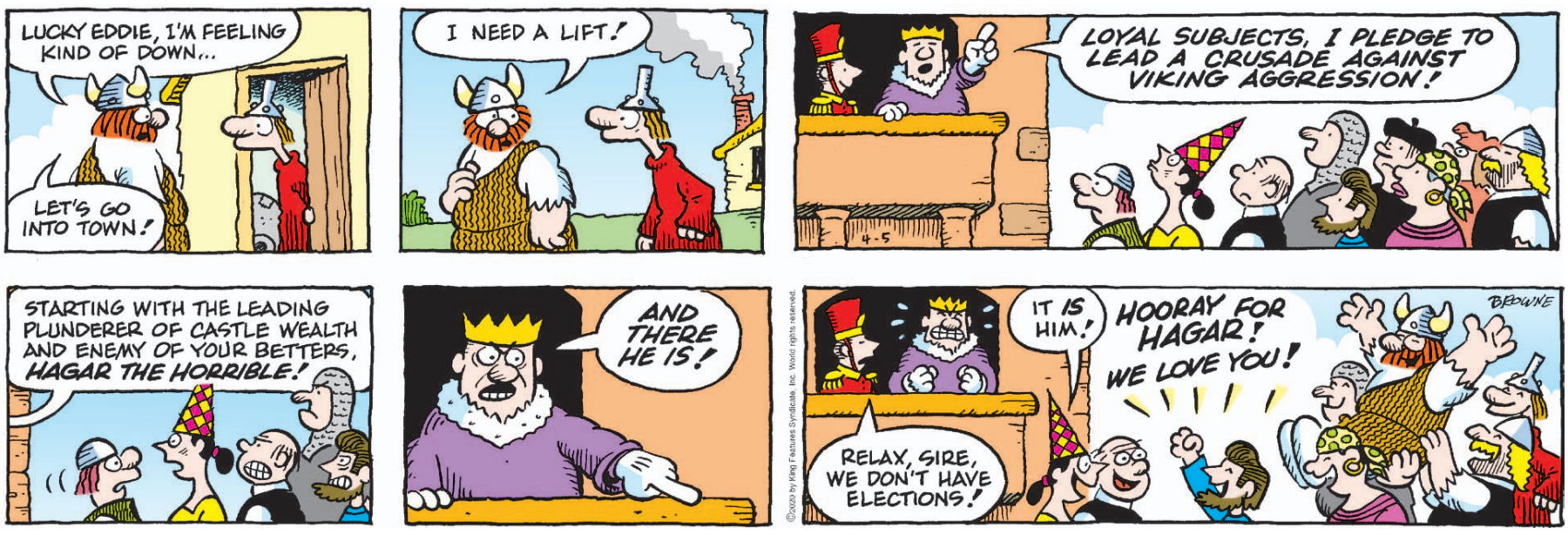


HAGAR the horrible

by DIK BROWNE


LUCKY EDDIE, I'M FEELING KIND OF DOWN...
LET'S GO INTO TOWN!
I NEED A LIFT!
LOYAL SUBJECTS, I PLEDGE TO LEAD A CRUSADE AGAINST VIKING AGGRESSION!
4-5
STARTING WITH THE LEADING PLUNDERER OF CASTLE WEALTH AND ENEMY OF YOUR BETTERS, HAGAR THE HORRIBLE!
AND THERE HE IS!
IT IS HIM!
HOORAY FOR HAGAR! WE LOVE YOU!
BROWNE
RELAX, SIRE, WE DON'T HAVE ELECTIONS!
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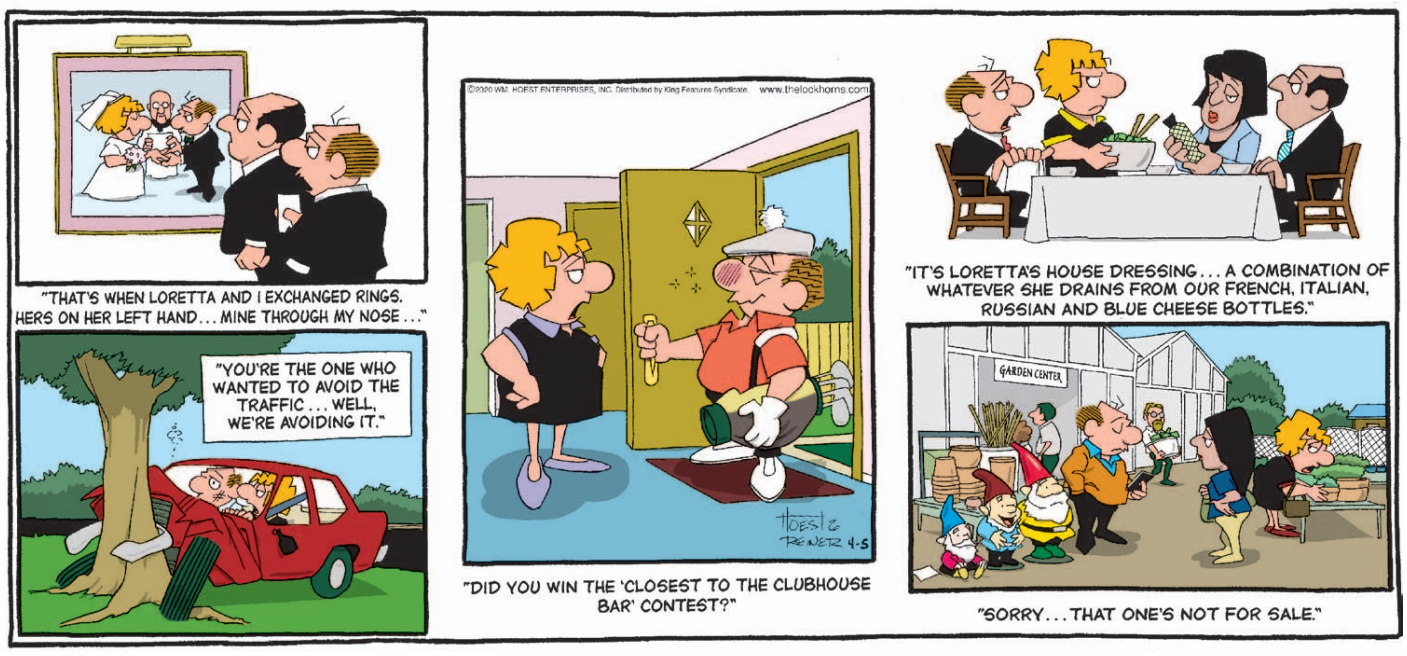
THE LOCKHORNS

BY BUNNY HOEST AND JOHN REINER


"THAT'S WHEN LORETTA AND I EXCHANGED RINGS. HERS ON HER LEFT HAND... MINE THROUGH MY NOSE..."
"YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTED TO AVOID THE TRAFFIC... WELL, WE'RE AVOIDING IT."
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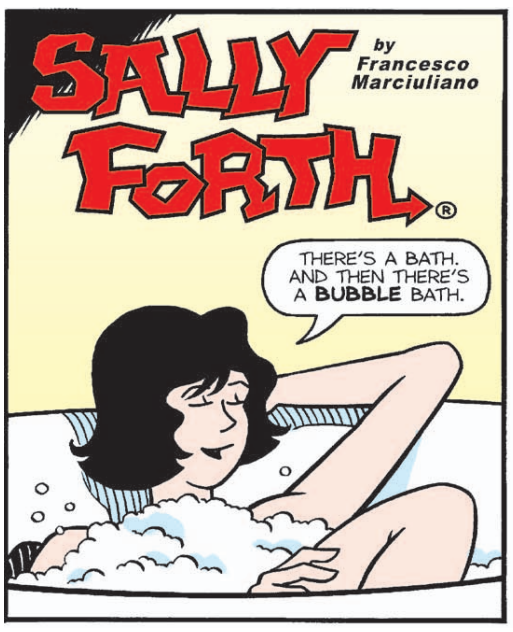
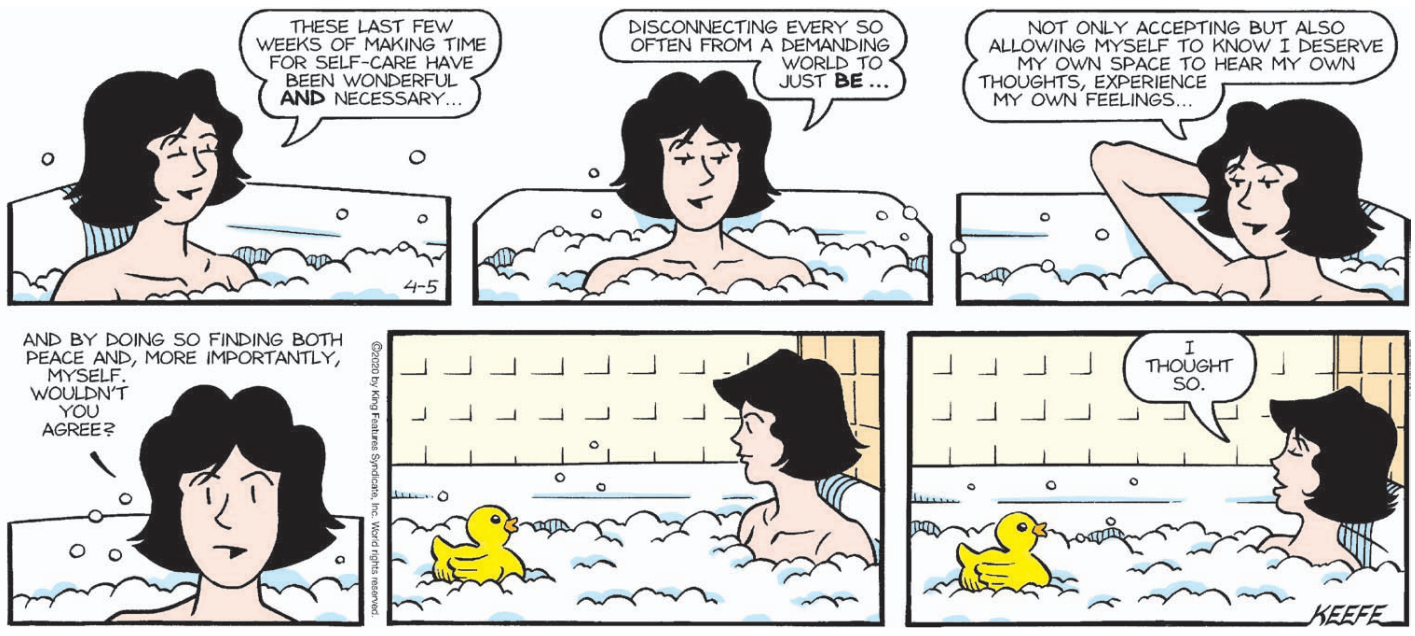
HOEST & REINER 4-5
"DID YOU WIN THE 'CLOSEST TO THE CLUBHOUSE BAR' CONTEST?"
"IT'S LORETTA'S HOUSE DRESSING... A COMBINATION OF WHATEVER SHE DRAINS FROM OUR FRENCH, ITALIAN, RUSSIAN AND BLUE CHEESE BOTTLES."
GARDEN CENTER
"SORRY... THAT ONE'S NOT FOR SALE."

SALLY FORTH®

by Francesco Marciuliano




THESE LAST FEW WEEKS OF MAKING TIME FOR SELF-CARE HAVE BEEN WONDERFUL AND NECESSARY...
4-5
DISCONNECTING EVERY SO OFTEN FROM A DEMANDING WORLD TO JUST BE...
NOT ONLY ACCEPTING BUT ALSO ALLOWING MYSELF TO KNOW I DESERVE MY OWN SPACE TO HEAR MY OWN THOUGHTS, EXPERIENCE MY OWN FEELINGS...
AND BY DOING SO FINDING BOTH PEACE AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, MYSELF. WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?
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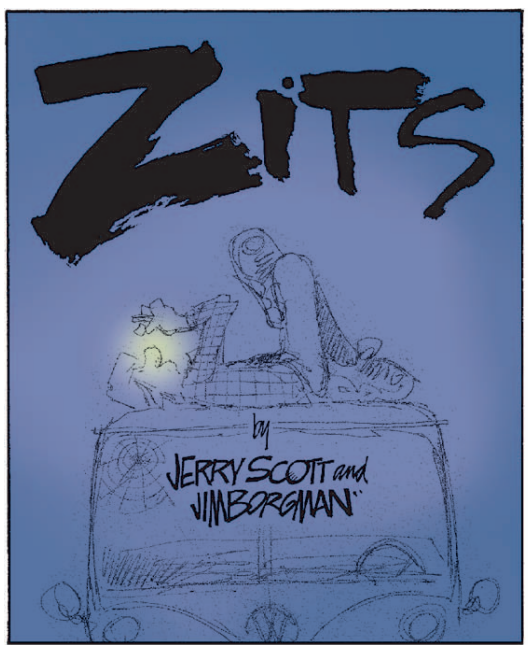
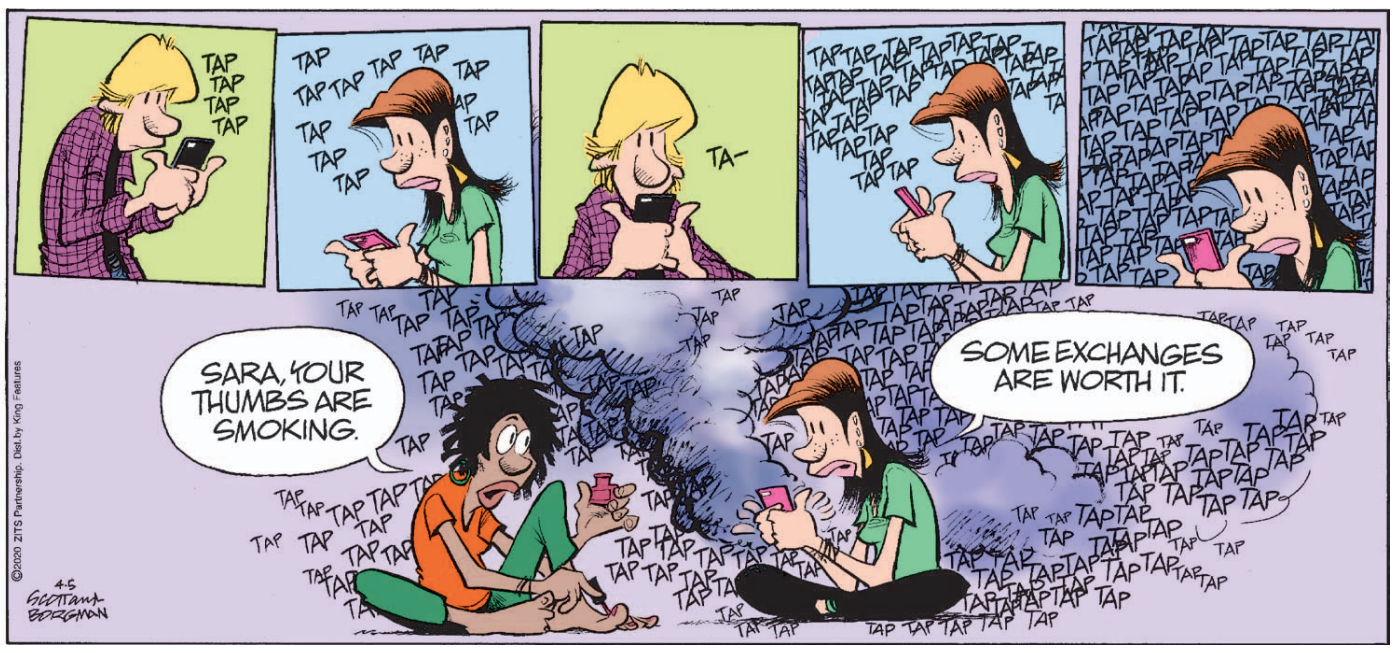
I THOUGHT SO.
KEEFE

ZITS

by JERRY SCOTT and JIM BORGMAN




TAP TAP TAP TAP
TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP
TA-
SARA, YOUR THUMBS ARE SMOKING.
SOME EXCHANGES ARE WORTH IT.
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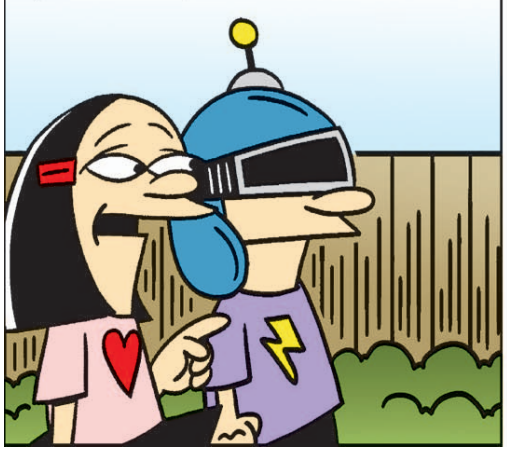
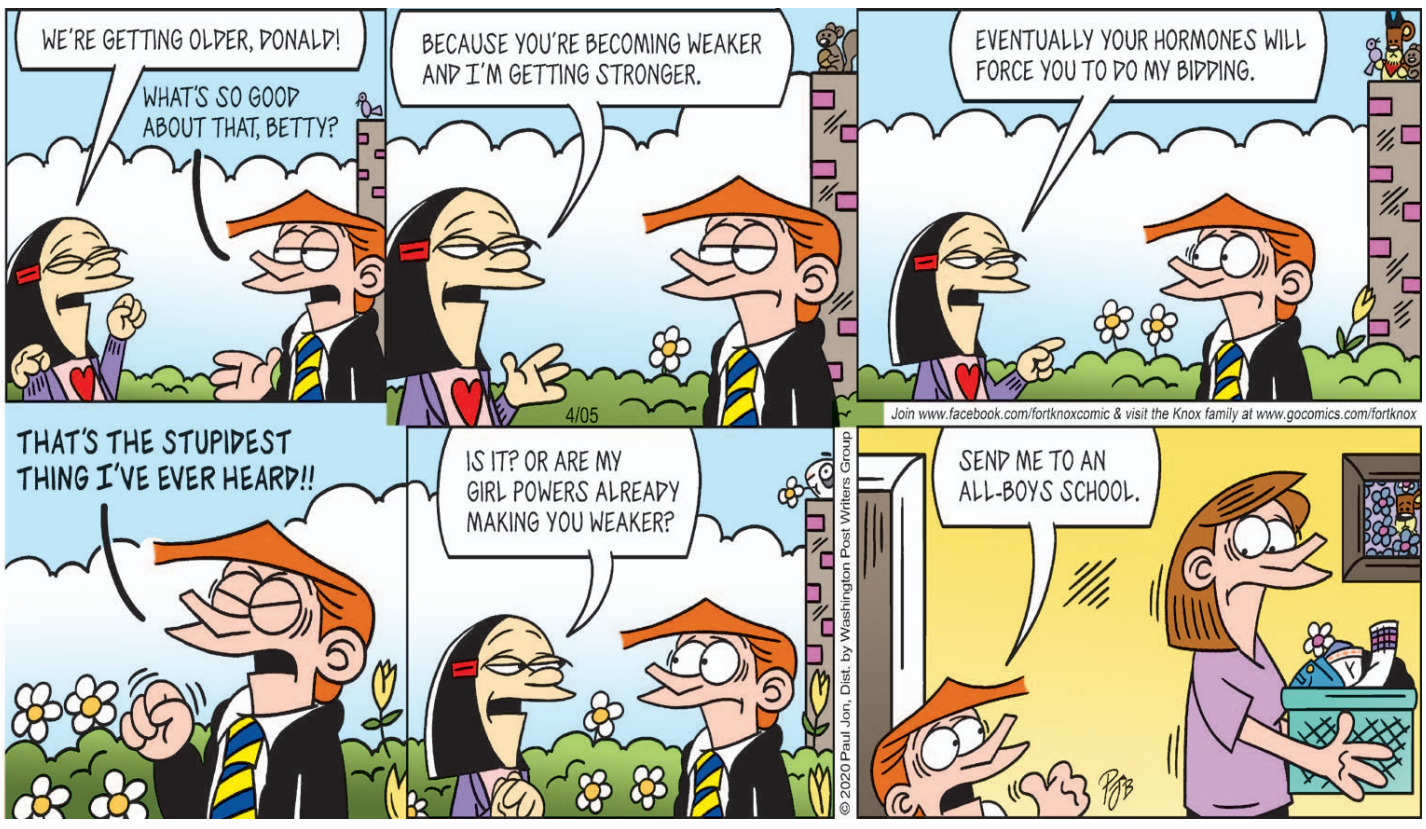
4-5
SCOTT and BORGMAN

FORT KNOX™

by Paul Jon




WE'RE GETTING OLDER, DONALD!
WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT THAT, BETTY?
BECAUSE YOU'RE BECOMING WEAKER AND I'M GETTING STRONGER.
EVENTUALLY YOUR HORMONES WILL FORCE YOU TO DO MY BIDDING.
4/05
Join www.facebook.com/fortknoxcomic & visit the Knox family at www.gocomics.com/fortknox
THAT'S THE STUPIDEST THING I'VE EVER HEARD!!
IS IT? OR ARE MY GIRL POWERS ALREADY MAKING YOU WEAKER?
SEND ME TO AN ALL-BOYS SCHOOL.
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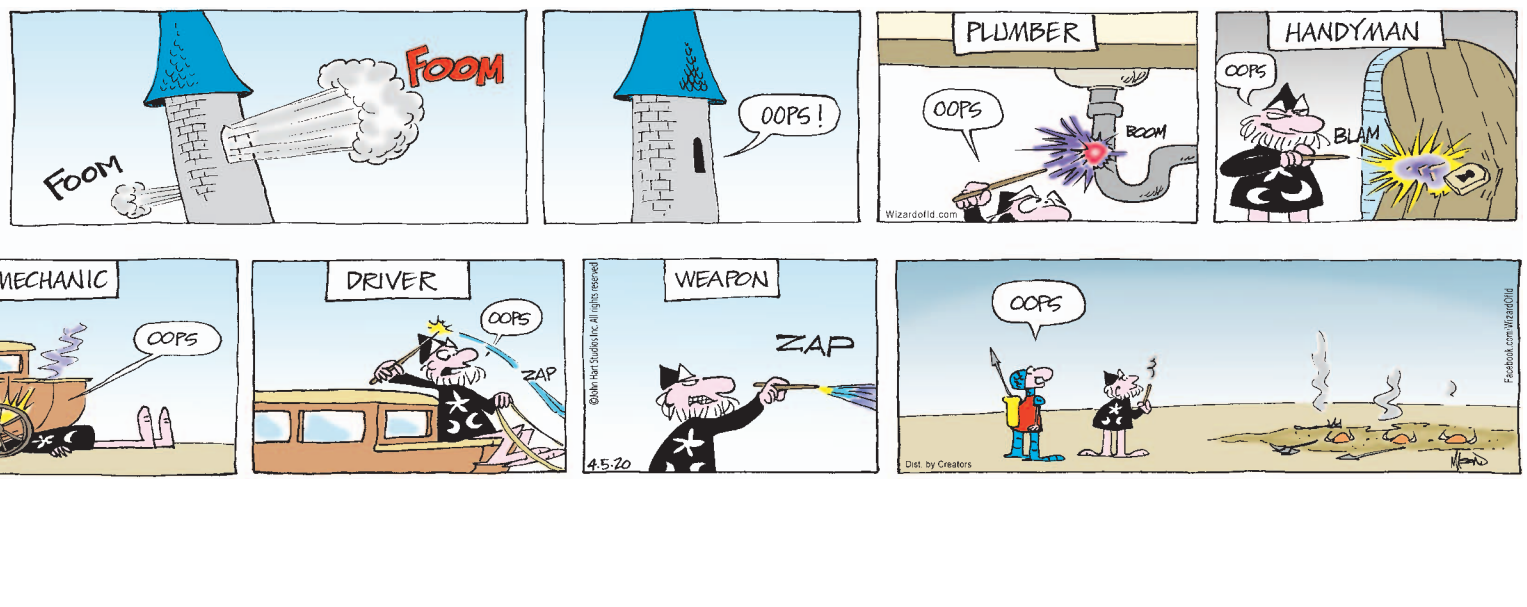
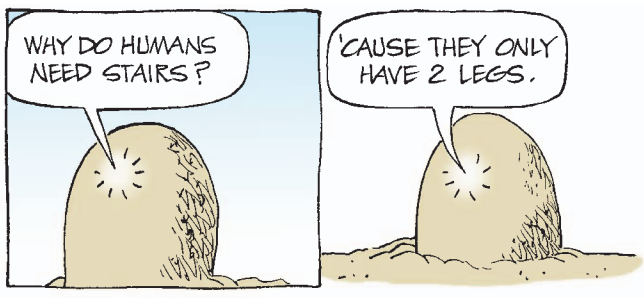
WIZARD OF ID

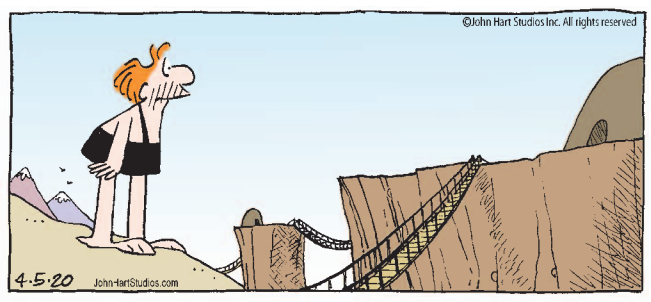
by Hart, Mastroianni and Parker

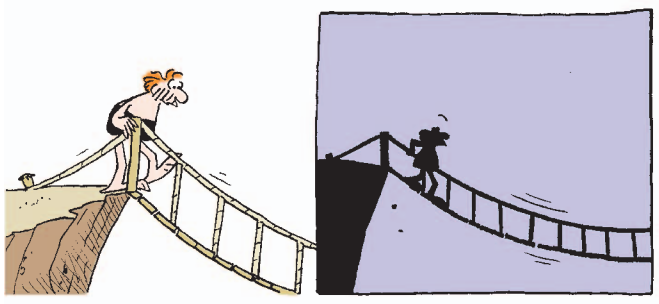


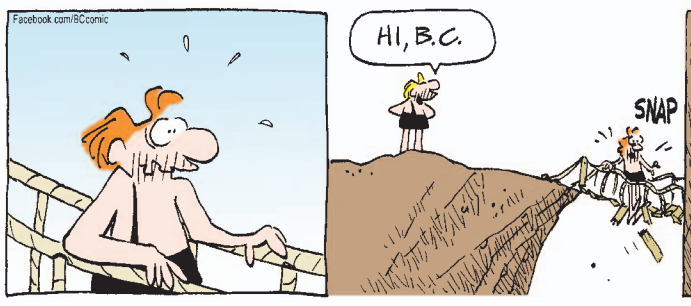
BC

BY MASTROIANNI AND HART







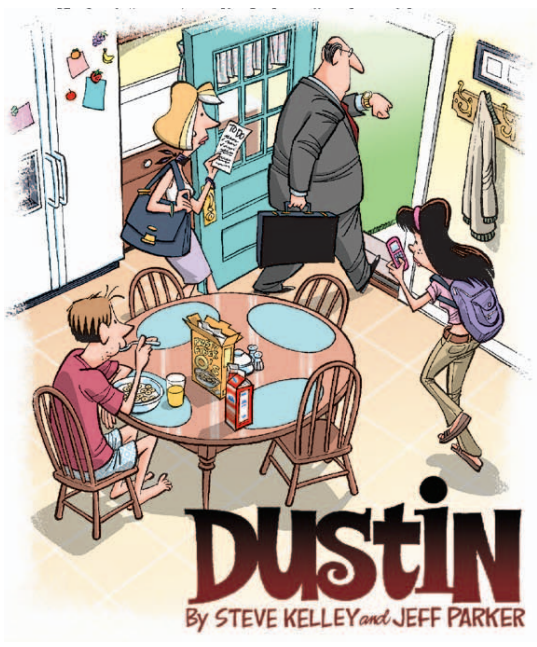


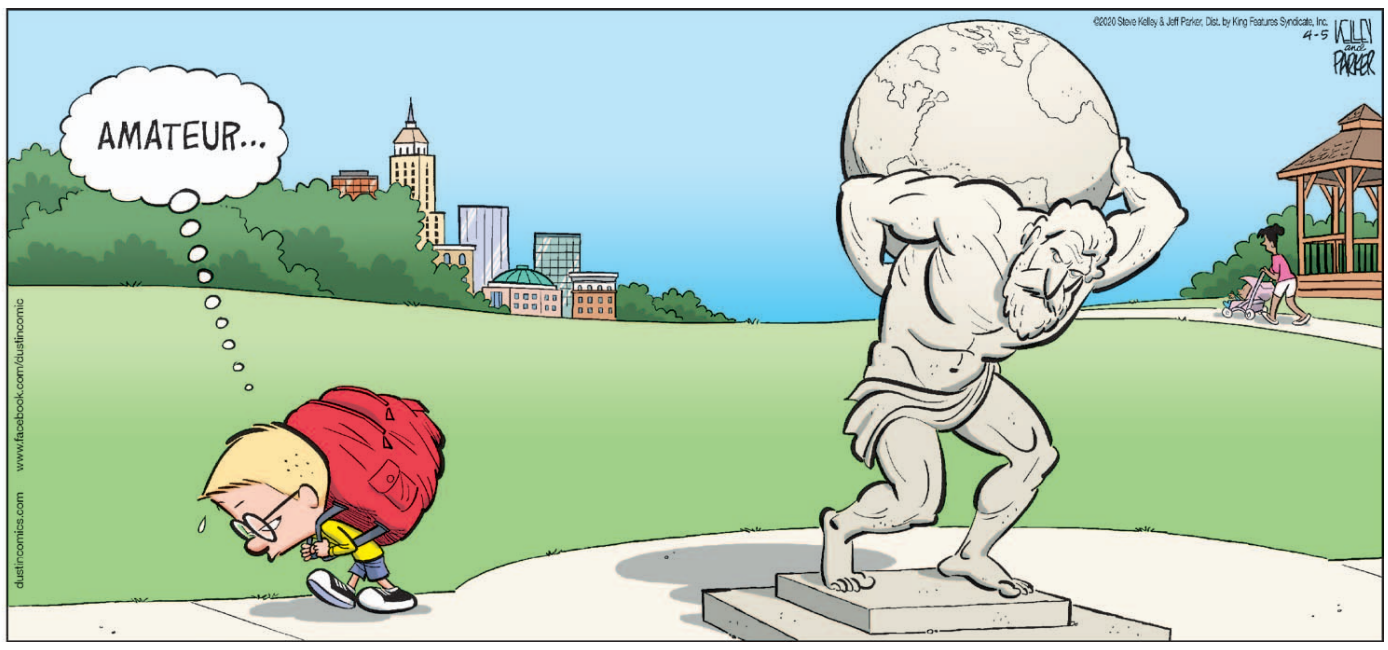
Bizarro

by Dan Piraro

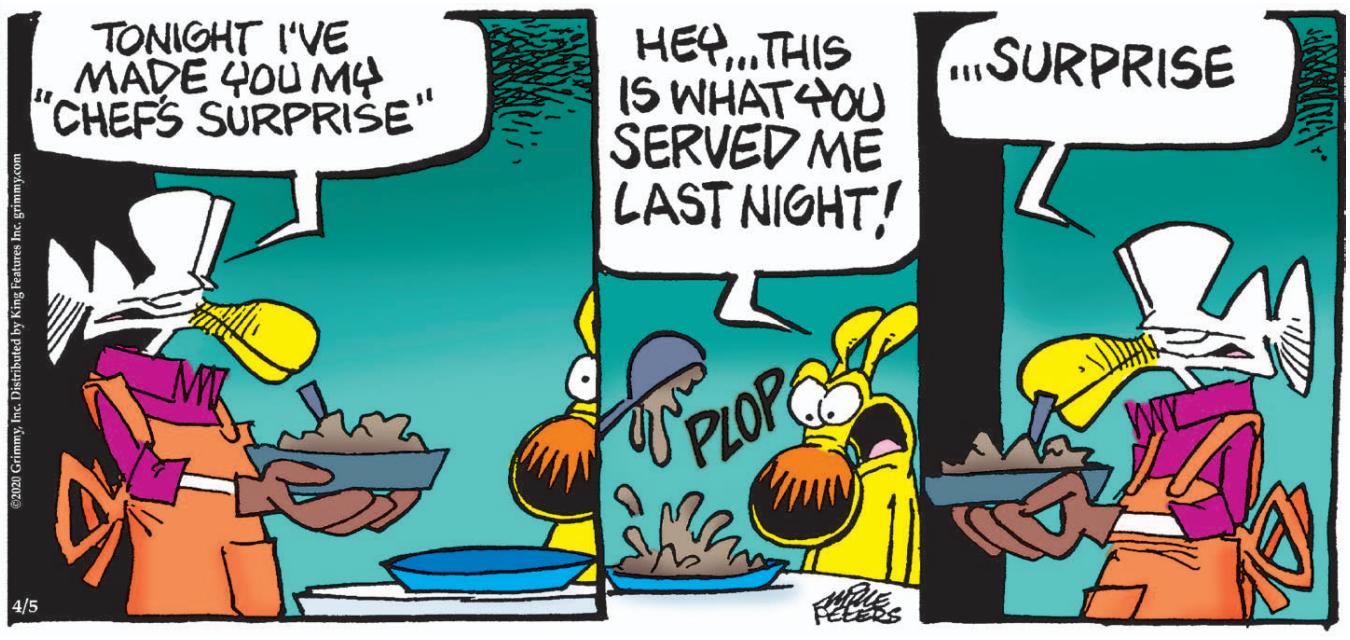
DUSTIN

By STEVE KELLEY and JEFF PARKER



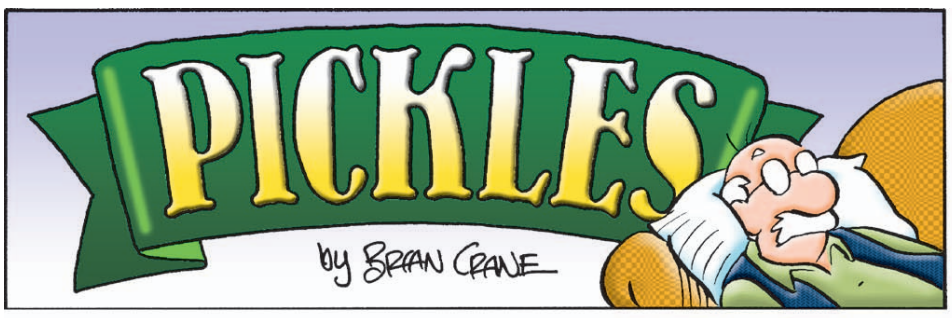


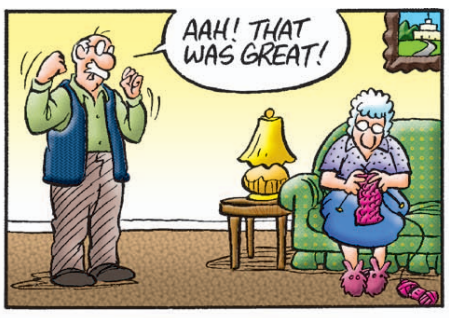
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

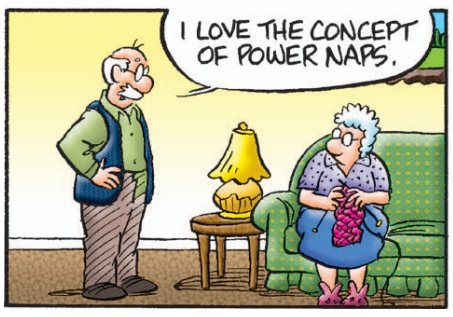

TONIGHT I'VE MADE YOU MY "CHEF'S SURPRISE"
HEY,..THIS IS WHAT YOU SERVED ME LAST NIGHT!
PLOP
...SURPRISE
©2020 Grimmy, Inc. Distributed by King Features Inc. grimmy.com
4/5

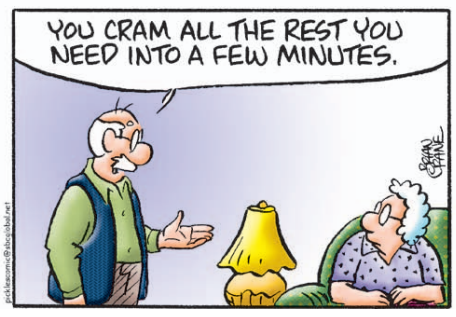
PICKLES

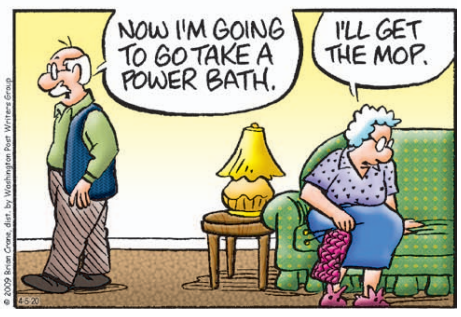
by BRIAN CRANE



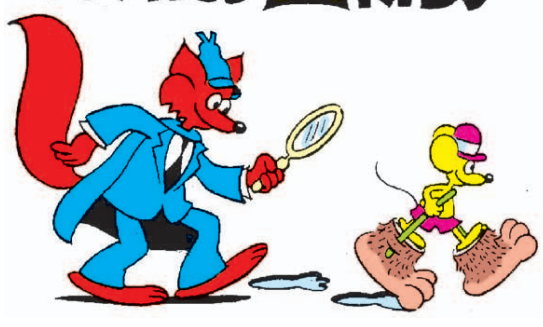






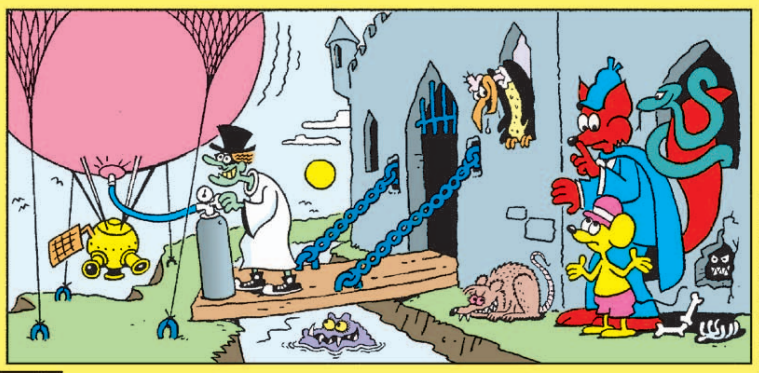


Bob Weber Jr.'s SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS



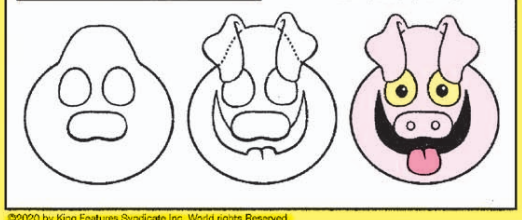
Count Weirdly said he is inflating this balloon with as much helium as it will hold without bursting. Attached to the balloon is a super camera that will allow Weirdly to spy from many miles above. Why isn't Slylock Fox rushing to stop Count Weirdly?

Solution -- As the balloon rises, the atmospheric pressure inside the balloon will decrease while the pressure inside the balloon will stay the same. That imbalance will allow the helium to expand. Since Weirdly is inflating the balloon to its limit, the expanding helium will burst the balloon.



HOW TO DRAW a pig

BOB WEBER JR and SR 4-5



YOUR DRAWING

Today's terrific artist is Lana, age 10

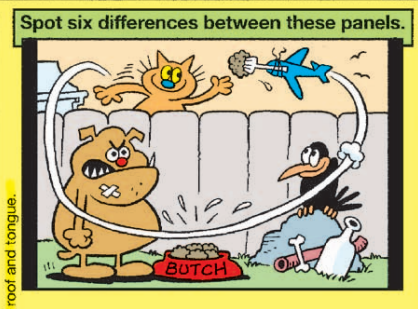
Submit your drawing to **www.kidcartoonists.com**

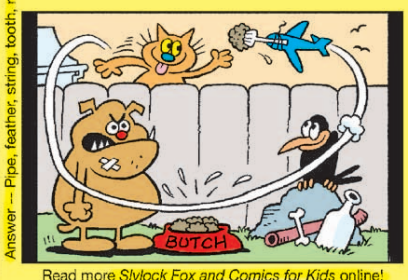
The first rubber balloons were made by Michael Faraday in ...

a) 1934
b) 1905
c) 1887
d) 1824

Answer -- d)

Spot six differences between these panels.





Answer -- Pipe, feather, string, tooth, roof and tongue.

Read more *Slylock Fox and Comics for Kids* online!
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